

The Holy Spirit
His Work and Significance as revealed
in the Book of Revelation

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1. SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The message of the book of Revelation is for the last days, and a special blessing is promised to those who hear and keep the words of this book, as we read in Revelation ~~22~~ 22:7 "...blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of... this book." This book is intended for those who want to overcome and inherit all things. It is given to teach us to overcome. It is given to reveal to us the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are seven divisions of this book each revealing an aspect of the glory of Christ.

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| Rev.1. | The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as our everlasting Priest. |
| Rev.2 and 3. | The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in His Church. |
| Rev.4 and 5. | The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in the perfected heavenly Church. |
| Rev.6 to 19. | The glory of His judgments and ourselves as His co-workers co-operating with Him in His judgments. |
| Rev.20 : 1-6. | The glory of Christ's millennial reign. |
| Rev.20 : 7-15. | The glory of the Great White Throne judgment. |
| Rev.21 and 22. | The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in His coming New Creation. |

The first chapter of the book of Revelation shows the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as our everlasting High Priest. The apostle John was exiled in the island of Patmos. He was thinking of his brethren and children in Christ in the churches of Asia Minor, thinking of the period of spiritual decline that had set in; the 'Antichrists', as indicated in his epistles (Rev. 1:9-10).

2 Timothy 4: 16 shows that many had left the apostle Paul at that time, as he writes in 2 Timothy 4 : 10 ---"Demas hath forsaken me." Many were scattered abroad and were losing their faith and many were deceived.

This book is a message for spiritual recovery. Every loss can be recovered if we obey the divine laws. We read that John heard behind him a great voice, and he turned to see the voice that spoke to him. John was looking in the wrong direction (Rev. 1:10-12). We too get discouraged because we look in the wrong direction. Peter began to sink when he looked at the waves (Matt. 14 : 29-31). He was all right when his eyes were on the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever the circumstances, our eyes must be on the Lord Jesus Christ. We must present Him, preach Him, and keep our eyes on Him.

In Rev. 1:20 we see what kind of Church the Lord Jesus Christ is building. Note the seven golden candlesticks. Gold speaks of the divine life. In Rev. 21 : 18 we read the wonderful description of the city of pure gold. The Lord is not building fellowships, or denominations or sects. He is building His Church. Unless life flows fully and freely His Church cannot be built.

Rev. 1 : 13 shows Christ as the everlasting High Priest. Hebrews 7 : 21-28 describes Him as undefiled, separate from sinners, higher than the heavens: Who ever liveth to make intercession for us. A believer may have fallen, but there is hope for him as long as he does not blaspheme the Word of God or the precious blood. In 1 John 2:1 Christ is called our advocate. With Him the believer is safe by His promises in Psalm 37 : 24- "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down" to which Micah 7:8 adds, "...when I fall I shall arise."

2 Cor. 4 : 9 tells us, we may be cast down but we shall not be destroyed. We may fall, for we are human beings and make many mistakes, but the Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest.

To enjoy the work of the High Priest in our hearts, we must come for fellowship in meetings for prayer and ministry of the Word of God. One meeting on Sunday is not enough. There is great loss to those who stay alone and come for fellowship only on Sunday. Lone believers are exposed to many temptations.

Seven Features of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. His head and hair white like wool:

His head and hair are wonderfully described in Rev. 1:14. His hair was white like wool. White hair of the Lord speaks of everlasting wisdom, maturity and experience (Dan. 7:9). Many people do not like grey hair; they pull them out whenever they appear ! However, human wisdom can make mistakes, and it is only by divine wisdom that we can understand the mysteries of God. James 1:5 tells us that if we lack wisdom we must ask of God, for the true wisdom is peaceable and easy to be intreated. Prov. 8:1-5; 25-30

describes true, spiritual heavenly wisdom. Prov. 9:1 speaks of the seven pillars of heavenly wisdom.

James 3:17 tells us that the wisdom given by God is first pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated, full of mercy, good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. How much we need that wisdom! Take your Bible, kneel down and pray: "Lord, teach me Thyself the meaning of this chapter".

2. His eyes like a flame of fire:

"...the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth" (2 Chron. 16:9). Psalm 32 : 8 gives the promise : "I will guide thee with mine eye", or as the margin gives it "Mine eye is upon thee". When we ask, "What about this? And what about that?" The Lord says : "I know, I can see". In John 1:46-48, Jesus says, "You are Nathaniel; I know you." Nathaniel thinks: "How does the Lord Jesus Christ know me?" Zacchaeus in Luke 19 : 5 is another example. The Lord knew who he was and where he was . He knows all, He allows circumstances to purify us. We need suffering to keep us gentle and pure, and fire is necessary for purifying.

3. His feet like fine brass:

In John 3:14 we read of the brass serpent. The story is given in Num. 21:9. The dying Israelite, bitten by the fiery serpent, looked on the serpent of brass and lived, but the serpent had no power in itself. In 2 Kings 18:4, we read how the people began to worship the serpent, so God caused it to be destroyed. Brass stands for judgment. The altar was of brass. The Lord's feet were like brass. In Gen. 3:15 the prophecy is given that the serpent's head would be crushed and in Romans 16 : 20 the promise is given that the God of peace would soon bruise Satan under the feet of God's people.

The Devil was defeated by Christ's death on the Cross, and not by miracles. Mohammedans believe in the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, that He was crucified and that He will come back again, but not that He died and rose again.

1 Cor. 1 : 18 affirms that God's power lies in the Cross of Christ and not in miracles. We are to make our boast in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, Gal. 6:14; and to defeat the Devil we must appropriate for ourselves our oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15 : 3-4).

4. His voice like the sound of many waters:

Rev. 1 : 15; 19:6. Isaiah 30:21 says: "thine ears shall hear a word behind thee." In 1 Kings 19:12-18 God spoke both in a still small voice, and also in a thundering voice.

5. His hands held seven stars:

The Lord holds the churches in His hands; He does not always send angels to speak to His servants. The Lord may send angels for our protection as we see in Josh. 5:13-15. In Gen. 32:1, the angels of God met Jacob, but they are not always seen. Sometimes the Lord permits us to go through trials, but always and in all circumstances we are held by His hands.

6. Out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword:

In Hebrews 4:12 the Word of God is compared to a sharp twoedged sword and it is by God's Word that we defeat the devil (Eph. 6:17), even as in Matt. 4:4,7,10, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself defeated the devil by the Word of God.

7. Lastly, His countenance was as the sun shineth in its strength:

In Mal. 4:2 the Sun of righteousness is used as a description of the Lord. Every germ is killed by sunshine, so keep yourself in the sunshine of the Lord Jesus to be free from spiritual germs of doubt, fear and suspicion. The Lord gave John the apostle a new vision of Himself. Present Christ, not only His teaching, but also His heavenly glory and beauty. Rev. 19:16 reveals Him as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Revelation chapter 2:

The book of Revelation is a special message for the end days and a special blessing is promised to those who hear and keep "the words of this prophecy" Rev. 22:7. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things" Rev 21:7, and this book teaches us how to overcome. In this chapter the Lord Jesus is seen in the midst of the churches (Matt. 16:18).

In chapters 2 and 3 we see how the Lord Jesus Christ defeats the Devil. The Devil comes in four ways.

1. 1 Pet. 5:8, as a roaring lion.
2. Acts 20:29, as a grievous wolf, bringing wrong teaching into the churches, and strife among God's people.
3. 2 Cor. 11:14, as an angel of light.
4. Isa. 59:19, as a flood.

The message of this chapter can be divided into seven parts, and each part represents a period of history. There are

in all seven messages and each message again has seven parts. Seven titles are given to the Lord Jesus Christ. By this He makes Himself known to the seven churches, and in each church or age it was the knowledge of Him in the role by which He introduced Himself, which enabled the believers to overcome.

First Period (Rev. 2:1-7)

The first period is described or pictured by the Church at Ephesus. In Rev. 2:1, speaking to the angel of the church at Ephesus, Christ introduces Himself as the **One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand**. When we are exposed to danger He commands His angels to take care of us. We should never look at circumstances, for with every circumstance will come the necessary help. He has made the angels to be ministering spirits to those who are the heirs of salvation (Heb.1:14).

Acts 12:7, angels do not come all the way with us. The angel took Peter only a short way. God knew Peter would forget and leave behind his sandals and old garment, so the angel reminded him to take them. Then the angel left him. Do not forget that God has His angels watching over His people.

In Quetta (India) 58,000 people were killed in eighteen seconds by an earthquake. Only one believer was killed, though 92 percent of the population was destroyed.

The Lord also introduced Himself to this church as the **One Who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks**.

Many were imprisoned and scattered through persecution, Acts 12:1-2, and John must have questioned, "What will be the future of the Church?" The Lord answered, "Do not look at outward conditions, I am in the midst of the churches. I am building my Church and for this I do not depend on buildings and property."

The gold of the candlesticks speaks of divine life. Where the churches are gathered with divine life, under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ they are built up. In His Message Christ first commends the church, "I know thy works, zeal and labour, how you cannot tolerate wrong teaching, how you are full of activity, visiting and preaching, bearing much and not fainting."

Then He makes a serious charge against the church: "Thou hast left thy first love. I cannot use you. You have lost your love for the Lord." Without love for the Lord He cannot use us. We may be full of activity, but with no love in our hearts, we are useless. Let us pray: "Lord, give me love for the people in their blindness," for unless we have love for the people the Lord cannot work. We may be full of knowledge, but cold and without love. We have no right to condemn the Ephesian church, for what was true of them is true of us also. We must show love.

As far as we understand the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, they made a difference, or rather drew a line between the preacher and the people, and in doing so tended to glorify the preacher.

The reward promised to this church is that to him that overcometh, will Christ give to eat of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7). In Genesis 2:9 the tree of life was in the

midst of the garden, and by eating of the tree of life a man could have enjoyed all things and eternal life. Now, by overcoming, we shall be able to enjoy all the things that God has for us. Even now the Bridegroom is preparing the heavenly feast and those who overcome will take part in that feast and eat of the tree of life (Matt 26:29). Our full enjoyment of the things of eternity is dependent on our eating of the tree of life. If our hearts are full of love we will enjoy all of God's Word as we learn to overcome.

Historically the church of Ephesus was the apostolic period from the beginning of church history to 90 A.D.

As we have seen, Christ spoke of Himself to this church as the One Who walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks, holding the seven stars in His right hand. He is the Centre and supreme authority in His Church.

The church's danger was that she had left her first love. The warning given to her was to remember and repent. The remedy for coldness and lack of fruit is to return to our first love for Christ.

The reader is **exhorted**: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches"

The reward of faithfulness is to eat of the tree of life.

Let us pray : ' Lord, keep me loving and tender'. No one can say : I will never fall (Luke 22:31-32). We must learn to pray for those who fall, going to them personally, and praying with them.

In Galatia 2.11-12 we read how Peter's heart became cold, and he did not have the same love for all people. We

must learn to love our enemies, even those that hate us and those that fall. We must be sure that our hearts are kind and tender, for our teaching is of no value if there is no love in our hearts and if we do not know how to share the burdens of others (Gal 6.2).

Second Period (Rev. 2:8-11)

The second period is that of the church at Smyrna, a church that was active between the years 90 A.D. to 325 A.D. The name indicates suffering and the word myrrh comes from the same root. From John 19:39 we see that myrrh is used to anoint dead bodies, but first it has to be ground to powder. In the same way we are called to suffer that we should give forth a sweet fragrance. Some flowers give forth the sweetest fragrance on the darkest night. It is true that under suffering we have the greatest burden for prayer. Prosperity generally brings barrenness among believers. The trouble in this country and in many parts of the West, is that there is too much prosperity. In the period when this letter was written, the believers had lost their property, and were gathered in caves. "I am the living Christ," announced the Lord to such a church in Rev. 2:8. Persecution does not kill the Church. The believers may be poor, but they are rich spiritually under persecution. There were those who wanted to deceive the believers and testing was allowed to make them strong. "ye shall have tribulation ten days," the Lord told them, "be thou faithful unto death." The number 10 stands for testing, and those who stood the test were to receive a **crown of life** (James 1:12).

In 2 Timothy 4:8 it is called the **crown of righteousness** and is promised to all who love Christ's appearing. All who love His appearing and overcome every temptation, receive the crown of life.

The apostle Paul himself endured much suffering and testing, but his attitude was that of the overcomer, knowing that he would not be "hurt of the second death." There are forty afflictions mentioned in 2 Co. 6:4-10, 11:24-29 yet the apostle was always rejoicing. He never murmured, but rather counted it a privilege to suffer. 'I have learned' he said, 'in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content,' Phil. 4:11. Would to God we all had that spirit of contentment.

In Heb. 13:5a we are told that our conversation must be without covetousness. We are warned to be free from the love of money and material possessions, and to be content with such things as we have. Some people are never content. They always want new furniture, a new car, or something else new. We must be thankful, for then only can we grow spiritually.

The promise to the second church (Rev. 2:11) is that the overcomer shall not be hurt of the second death. Rev. 20:6 is a further promise concerning the same. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power."

Who are these overcomers? From Rev. 20:4 we gather that they are all believers. Many will be deceived by the Antichrist and many will bow to worship the beast or his image or will wear his mark on their hand or forehead. Those who overcome will live and reign with Christ for a thousand years. But those who wear the mark of the beast or take the part of Antichrist cannot be overcomers (Rev. 13:4). They will be overcome of the second death, and have no part in the millennial reign.

The Lord comes to this church as "the First and the Last", the One Who "was dead and is alive." He Himself had been through death, so why should they fear death when He was with them?

Third Period (Rev. 2:12-17)

The third period is that of the church of Pergamos. Christ presents Himself as "he which hath the sharp sword with two edges"

He says, "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is" (v. 13). King Constantine was the head of the church instead of the Lord Jesus Christ.

King Henry VIII wanted to divorce Catharine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn. So he broke away from the Roman Catholic church and became head of the Church of England. But Christ cannot reign in a church where a man claims headship.

The church is warned not to eat things sacrificed to idols. In Numbers 23:4-11 we read how Balaam blessed the children of Israel instead of cursing them. He had not wished to do this, but God had compelled his mouth to bless them. Later, in Numbers 25:1, Balaam gave wrong advice. He cleverly seduced some of Israel to make mixed marriages with the result that the people began to worship idols and Israel was joined to Baalpeor (Num. 31:16). We might call the doctrine of Balaam the doctrine of mixed marriages, that is, of believers marrying unbelievers. In 2 Cor. 6:14-18 we read why relationship with unbelievers is harmful. It is a false argument to say, "I am friends with him so that I can win him." That is a strong weapon of the devil to bring about

spiritual blindness. How can a believer and an unbeliever agree in marriage or in business? Amos 3:3 gives the answer: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

This church also had among its members those who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes (Rev. 2:15). The people began to idolize a preacher who could draw crowds, which God hated. It is the doctrine of man appointed headship in the church of God. Even Anglicans worship the Bishop and bow down to him. Because of this, long robes were brought in, and people worship the priest, and kiss his feet. However, God says in Rev. 2:16 that He would fight with the sword of His mouth against such things. That sword is the Word of God, and God's Word should be honoured. Only to the Lord Jesus Christ should we bow down and kneel in prayer. In Phil. 2:10 we read that every knee should bow to Him, and in Ephesians 3:14 the apostle says, 'I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

In the early church it was the custom to kneel when praying, for kneeling is a sign of worship. We see this in Acts 20:36 when the apostle kneeled down and prayed with the elders of the church of Ephesus and again in Acts 21:5 at Tyre the apostle kneeled down on the shore, with men, women and children and prayed. In Acts 7:60 Stephen kneeled down and prayed, even though he was being stoned. In Acts 9:40 Peter kneeled down and prayed by the body of Tabitha. Believers now sit down and pray, but this brings darkness. Obey the Word of God in your private life, family life, and church life. There is often so much fun going on in the meetings of believers, especially amongst the young. But we must rebuke them and teach the young how they must honour God. The believers must be taught to keep their ears sensitive to God's Word.

In every message there is a reward. Here the promised reward is **hidden manna**, the spiritual food that we require for new life (Rev. 2:17). In 1 Kings 19:5-8 the angel had prepared a cake and brought water, and this food gave strength to the prophet to walk day and night for forty days without stopping. It was not ordinary food. Food which is prepared by angels has extra strength, it is heavenly, not earthly. So God gives His people special strength if they are tempted, persecuted and in tribulation. As we wait upon our knees and read God's Word we get that extra strength. We will be given hidden manna to go anywhere in God's universe. Men cannot stay on the moon but we will be able to go anywhere if God sends us.

There is also **white stone** promised to the overcomer. In Numbers 27:21 we read of the Urim by which the high priest could find God's will. With the help of the white stone we too will be able to find God's will. As we read God's Word and pray, God gives a verse which shows His will. When God gives a white stone, He gives with it ability to answer all questions.

Fourth Period (Rev. 2:18-29)

The fourth period of church history is that of the church at **Thyatira**.

That was a period when men tried counterfeits, holy water and other devices, in order to obtain salvation. Christ introduces Himself as the Son of God Who hath "His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass." He says: "Look at my eyes!" By coming into His presence, I can look into the fire of His eyes. Dare I do so? His feet were like

brass. Brass speaks of judgment. In John 3:14 the serpent of brass is referred to. The story is in Numbers 21:4-9. Judgment in the shape of fiery serpents was sent among the people for their rebellion. The serpent or Satan causes trouble in the midst of the Church and unless the sin he causes is judged, we cannot conquer the devil himself.

In Genesis 3:15 the promise is given that Christ would bruise the head of the serpent, and that the serpent would bruise His heel. Before Pilate men cried, "Crucify him, Crucify him!" But the same bruised heel gave victory to man (1 Cor 1:18; 1 Cor. 2:2; Gal. 6:14).

In Rev. 2:19 Christ commended the church for her work and her love and faith and patience, but defilement was going on. "That woman Jezebel" was causing much trouble by her so-called prophecies, teaching immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. The Lord promises terrible judgments. But in Rev. 2:24 He speaks comfort to those who have not known the 'deaths of Satan' and tells them to hold fast to that which God has revealed to them (Rev. 2:25). The things allowed in Thyatira can be compared to the dreadful practices of the Roman Catholic church especially in the Middle ages.

Do not allow bag-snatchers in your divine life, for, by this means the enemy can bring doubt and fear.

To the overcomers is given the promise that they will reign (Rev. 2:26). But all cannot reign. 1 Cor. 6:3 tells us that the saints shall judge angels. The promised reward is the Morning Star in Rev. 2:28. Again the people of God are told to be sensitive to God's voice. The still small voice is heard only by living close to Him (1 Kings 19:12).

As we see the Lord Jesus Christ in His true greatness, we shall be enabled to overcome the evils of the last days. In chapters 2 and 3 we see unfolding the history of His Church down the ages. God's work will not stop, even though His servants pass away.

Revelation Chapter 3

Fifth Period (Rev. 3:1-6)

The fifth period is the period of Sardis. Historically it is the Reformation period, when, because of the evils practised in the Roman Catholic church, there was protest and a breaking away. They had a name of life but were dead, for they retained the robes, candles, several rituals, and prayer books of the Roman church. Unless the Holy Spirit has His way in our lives we too will be led away with many customs and traditions. In the eyes of God they were still dead for they retained the rituals, customs and traditions of the Roman system.

The Lord Jesus Christ introduces Himself as the One Who has the Seven Spirits of God (Rev. 3:1). These are also mentioned in Rev. 1:4 and 5:6.

In Zechariah 4:2 the seven lamps speak of the seven-fold work of the Holy Spirit. It is a complete work, and not just an experience. The lamps must be filled continually. When we are in need we must be filled again and again, Acts 13:9. We need to rightly understand the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1. There are seven names of the Holy Spirit.
2. There are seven inward works of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
3. There are also seven outward works of the Holy Spirit and
4. There is a sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The seven names of the Holy Spirit.

1. Hebrews 9:14. **The Eternal Spirit** gives us a longing for eternity and eternal things.
2. Romans 1:4. **The Spirit of holiness** works in us to make us like Christ. Am I like Him? Is the Lord satisfied with my life?
3. John 14:16. **The Comforter**, makes us enjoy fully God's love, not some emotion, but the pure love of God (Romans 5:5), the love which passeth knowledge (Ephesians 3:19). God's will for us is that we should be filled with His fulness.
4. John 14:17. **The Spirit of Truth**, teaches us all things (John 15:5) "Without me," He says, "ye can do nothing."
5. Galatians 4:6. **The Spirit of His Son** enables us to say boldly "My Father", as He Himself said "my Father, and your Father" (John 20:17). The Spirit gives me a sense of claim that I can call Him my **Father**.

- 6 2 Timothy 1:7. **The Spirit of power, love and a sound mind.** We must use the whole Bible, and this will save us from unsound teachings.
- 7 1 John 2:27 **The anointing** Through the Spirit we will go on learning throughout our life. We cannot learn everything in one day, but as we are ready to receive we shall be taught by the anointing. Matt. 13:17.

The sevenfold inward workings of the Holy Spirit.
Like the roots of a tree these are not seen.

1. **Eph. 1:13.** We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, showing that we are the Lord's property.
2. **1 Cor. 12:13** We are baptised by one Spirit and joined to the Lord as His body
3. **Eph. 1:14.** The Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, the deposit of the heavenly inheritance, 1 Peter 1:4, reserved in heaven for us. We have a share there. All things belong to me in Christ
4. **Eph. 1:17.** He is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. In Matt. 16:22 Peter began to rebuke the Lord Jesus Christ because he did not understand. But the Lord took him up into a high mountain, (Matt. 17:1) to show him those things he could not understand
5. **Eph. 3:16.** He is also the strengthening Spirit.
6. **1 Peter 1:2.** He is the sanctifying Spirit. For obedience we require the sprinkling of the Blood.
7. **1 John 2:27.** He is the teaching Spirit

We must be sure we are enjoying fully the work of the **Holy Spirit of God in our lives**

The sevenfold outward workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Like the trunk of the tree and branches these can be seen

1. Rom. 8:9 **The Indwelling Spirit**, The Holy Ghost makes us a fit dwelling place for Himself. He fills us with love, joy, peace and gentleness. We cannot become numb by ourselves. Our longing should be to be prepared by Him to be God's dwelling place.
2. Rom. 8:11 **The Quickening Spirit** quickens our mortal body. He gives us extra strength for the need of the day, helps us to do our jobs faithfully, and gives us strength to do gospel work.
3. Rom. 8:14 **The Guiding Spirit** teaches us to be led by Him and helps us to find God's will.
4. Rom. 8:15 **The Spirit of Adoption** brings us to maturity. It was a custom, that when a son came of age he was given authority to sign his father's documents, and given a **key** of the house. Many believers remain babes spiritually. They go to meetings only and come home. They sit in the same seat week after week, but cannot take any responsibility. Look around to see what you can do for God yourself, for you do not need anybody to teach you.
5. Rom. 8:16 **The Witnessing Spirit** teaches us that we have a share in the heavenly inheritance which must be claimed. He that overcometh shall inherit all things. The Holy Spirit is there to teach us and **help us to claim our share of the heavenly inheritance.**

6. Rom. 8:26 **The Teaching Spirit** will teach us how to pray. He will help us to pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14) and to know the mind of God.
7. Rom. 8:27 **The Interceding Spirit** intercedes for us. Some are going through trials and temptations, and as we pray, the Holy Spirit gives us a burden to pray for such even though we do not know why. Sometimes God has caused me to wake up in the night with burden to pray.

The sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit with reference to the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Luke 1:34, 35 The Lord Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
2. Matt. 3:16 The Spirit of God came upon Him after His baptism.
3. The Lord Jesus was **led by the Spirit** into the wilderness (Matt. 4:1). The Spirit prepared Him before the temptation. He will also prepare us for what lies ahead of us.
4. Isaiah 9:6 The Lord Jesus was **anointed** of the Holy Spirit; Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of **wisdom** was given to Him **to equip Him** for the task for which He had come; Isa. 11:2-5 Thus He was able to speak with authority; Matt. 7:29, John 7:46, Luke 4:22, 32.
5. Isa. 42:1-3 He bore everything very patiently and was **not discouraged**, because God's Spirit was upon Him.
6. Isa. 61:1-3 By the Holy Spirit He gave the Gospel patiently, and with love (Acts 10:38). What He spoke

was under
authority.

7. Rom 1:4 By the Spirit of holiness, and by the resurrection from the dead, He was **declared to be the Son of God**

As we put all these things together, we can understand what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit and we shall know whether we ourselves are filled with the Spirit. We cannot depend on some past experience.

The Seven Spirits (Rev. 3.1)

Many go by outward things, such as simple clothes, not eating meat, living in monastery, holy ashes and holy oil. But these things do not prove that we are filled with the Spirit. It is true that we can be filled, but we can only be filled as we understand the meaning of the Seven Spirits of God.

The Lord is not satisfied unless we come into His perfect will (v.2). We must do all things heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men, Col. 3:23.

We must prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God. And we must be sure that we are living in the perfect will of God, and not in the permissive will of God, Rom. 12:2.

We must be free from all worldly associations, Rev. 3:4. The biggest danger to a believer is from worldly associations. Those who associate with the world, imitate the dress, haircuts, and conversation. We must be careful not to imitate the world. We are to hate even the garment spotted by the flesh (Jude 23). Fashions are designed to stir passions and to make

men slaves to sex, till they dress for sex and not only for fashion. If believers imitate the world, their hearts are full of defilement. Our beauty is holiness (v.5), 1 Chron. 16:29; Psalm 110:3-5. Peter 3:2-5 tell us the secret of real beauty. The white raiment promised to the overcomer in v.5 speaks of heavenly beauty.

He has promised also that He will not blot the overcomer's name out of the book of life. This is a special promise for those who confess His Name boldly. If we confess Him boldly we receive a reward (Luke 12:4-9). Many believers are ashamed to speak about the Lord Jesus Christ, but by our bold testimony we are confessed as overcomers and are worthy to receive a reward.

Sixth Period (Rev. 3:7-13)

The sixth period, the period of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7) is the missionary period, when the Gospel began to be taken to the world. For 1000 years there had been no burden for others. There was no concern for the lost, and because of this Wesley was persecuted because he took the Gospel into the open-air. Here the Lord introduces Himself as the One Who shuts and no man can open, and what He opens no man can shut.

A young gypsy girl was once called to an artist's studio. In the studio there was a painting of the Crucifixion. The poor girl had never seen such a picture before, and enquired of the artist its meaning. As she listened to the story of Christ's love and sacrifice, she accepted His salvation and was born again. When dying she sent for the artist, to thank him for telling her of the death of Christ and for the joy and peace it had brought to her. The artist knew that he himself had not

accepted salvation of which he had told her. For days the thought was with him, till at last he also turned to Christ, and accepted His salvation. Then he painted another picture of the Crucifixion, and beneath it he wrote the words, "All this I did for thee, what hast thou done for Me?" Some years later a gay young Count visited the gallery where the picture was hung. He stood for hours before it watching the agony in the face of the Saviour, and reading the words. He went out a changed man, laid all his wealth at the feet of Christ and founded the Moravian Mission to tell the good news of this salvation to others.

Rev. 3:7 tells us how the Gospel was taken to other countries by bold witnessing. As we preach with authority, an open door is set before us which no man can shut. But to find this open door, we need to find out the will of God.

When I first began to work for the Lord I gave out tracts everywhere but nothing happened. Then I learned to find the will of God. Where doors are shut, do not try to open them. Find out where God wants you to go. Do not go by the weather! One day as I preached in the rain, souls were born again. Nominal Christians will ridicule, but later they will acknowledge that God is with you (v.9).

Rev. 3:10 tells us that the enemy will be very active in the time that is coming, but by perseverance and endurance we will overcome him (Matt. 24:13).

In v. 11, the Lord announces that He has given us the breaking of bread week by week to prepare our hearts for His Second Coming. We see in 1 Cor. 11:26 that it is not a ceremony or custom, but to help us to be watchful and prayerful till He comes.

His promise to the overcomers in v. 2 is fourfold. The overcomer is to be "a pillar in the temple of my God". A source of strength to other believers. He will bear the "name of the city of my God, and my new name and above all the name of my God". New name means that we have won God's approval. Abraham's name was changed after twenty five years. Saul was called Paul, (Acts 13:2) It means that we can be trusted, that we are approved of God, and under full subjection, fully tried, tested and set apart in a more intimate relationship. We are given the name of the New Jerusalem, because, when we overcome, we understand our share in the New Jerusalem and can also understand hidden mysteries, (Gen.18:17· Deut. 29:29) Secret things are revealed and we are told what is going to happen in the future

Seventh Period (Rev. 3:14-22)

This is the **Laodicean** period. The Lord introduces Himself as the beginning and the ending. He is the beginning of creation. He spoke and it was done immediately, and not over centuries. In v.15 He tells the church how they are in His sight lukewarm, indifferent, no hunger for the work of God, but only formality, the desire to be decent and respectable, to have many books, buildings and money. He tells them in v.18 to buy gold i.e. to have a living faith, (1 Pet.1:7) to learn how to claim the Lord as our righteousness.

We have this thought in Col. 3:4, Christ is our life, otherwise we are naked before God. Others can see our nakedness, and it is only by claiming His life and righteousness that we are covered. He counsels them to use eye-salve. When there were no glasses people used eye-salve and spiritually when we cannot see clearly we need spiritual eye-salve. Our prayer should be "Lord, touch my eyes". We

cannot understand these things by big books, and Hebrew and Greek, but only as the Lord opens our eyes (1 John 2:27).

The Lord chastens the one he loves (v.19), and we must be chastened if we are to be partakers of His holiness (Heb. 12:10)

When the Lord knocks, open the door immediately (Rev. 3, 20) Once after preaching five times in one day I went to bed very tired. Then I heard a knock, but when I went to the door no one was there. Again the knock came and the Lord said: 'Get up, and pray' This happened to me for five nights. After the Sunday message I called the people to stay back, and said that any one with a testimony should speak out. A child of ten gave a testimony. Then another child of the same age gave a clear testimony. Then the teacher asked for prayer, and presently a great cry went up. People cried for mercy. I asked "How many of you are not born again? We will not go home till all are born again." So we continued in prayer for seven hours till all were born again. The knock is for the believer, not for the unbeliever. When the Lord knocks, be sure to open it immediately.

The message of the Book of Revelation is centred in Rev.21:7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." The God of love is longing to give us all the things of the New Creation, but unless we overcome we will not be able to enjoy them. In this book we are taught how to overcome. In chapters 4 and 5 we see the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Heavenly Church. We are given a glimpse of our oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ, for, when we see Him, we shall be like Him. Engineers can show by drawing and by a model what a building will be like when it is complete. In the same way these chapters show

the completed Church in heaven Rev 4:2 reveals the glory of His throne "... he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone" (v 3) These stones are clear with a transparency that burns. They speak of the purity and holiness of God.

The rainbow is a symbol of God's covenant-pure light divided into its seven colours Gen 9:11-17. The first rainbow here was a token of God's Covenant with men. When we have longing to share the throne of God, as He promised in Rev. 3:21, we wonder how we can do so with so many human limitations. We shall share the throne not because of what we are but because of God's covenant (Psalm 89:34). He promises: "My covenant will I not break" Because God is God He must keep His promises. God cannot and will not i.e. He is the covenant-keeping God (Num. 23:19). He makes a decree which shall not pass (Psalm 148:6) When He calls, He is faithful (1 Thess 5:24) The rainbow is the token of God's faithfulness. We must believe and claim His promises.

We had this experience in the beginning of the work when God showed us a large compound and gave us His promise in 1 Chron. 29:1 - "... the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God". The back portion of the house was in ruins, and not safe for habitation. We enquired if there was any possibility of the house becoming vacant, and were told: "Yes, but the landlord will not make any repairs!" The house was to be vacated on July 12th. We then saw the landlord and told him that the work was for God, he said at once, "I will repair the building. You can move in and no rent need be paid until the repairs are finished" After that time the money came in for the rent.

We must believe what God has said and hold to it. Once the Lord told me to get ready to go abroad and gave me Zech 9:10. There were heavy bookings, and a long waiting list. Humanly speaking there was no chance. In my quiet time the Lord gave me Isa 43:16 "I will make a way in the sea." When I walked into the booking office, the official said: "There is only one place for an Indian government servant. Are you a government servant?" I told him I was God's servant. "That will do," he said, and gave me passage. We must learn how to hold on to God's promises.

There are seven colours in the rainbow which stand for seven covenants :

As we believe in the seven covenants we can rise higher and higher spiritually. It is all of grace that God condescends to make a covenant with such as we are. We are not worthy of such favour (1 Cor. 15:10). What He gives, He gives out of His unqualified grace. The men of God in the old Testament times reminded God of His promises. We also by claiming the promises of God can get strength to press on.

1 God made a covenant with Adam in Gen. 3:15. Satan thought he had the victory, but God promised that even though Eve was deceived, the woman's seed would crush Satan's head. In Christ I will conquer, for the Lord Jesus Christ is not, and cannot be defeated. I may fall, but the Lord Jesus Christ is victorious. I too can be victorious if I appropriate His victory. Micah 7:8, "when I fall, I shall arise." Psalm 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down". We can never conquer Satan by Bible knowledge, will-power, signs or miracles. We must claim the precious Blood and the victory of the Cross.

In Ephesians 1:16 to 22 we read of Christ's victory, and in chapter 2:1 it extends to us. Christ's victory is for us, as we appropriate the power of His resurrection, and claim that same victory.

Rom. 8:37 assures us that we are more than conquerors through Christ. Some long for knowledge and signs and miracles, but power comes only in and through the Cross, for the Cross is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18).

2. **God's second covenant was made with Noah.** (Gen. 9:9-11) God's mercies are so great (Isaiah 44:22) that we can safely tell men that though their sin is so great, they can come back to God and be forgiven. Even men of the worst type can be forgiven. Many feel that they have failed, so how can they be overcomers? We have only to claim His mercies (Psalm 89:1). As long as we do not blaspheme the precious Blood of Christ our sins can be forgiven.

3. **God's third covenant was with Abraham—an everlasting covenant** (Gen. 17:19). Abraham believed God would give him a son in his old age. At first he found difficulty in believing such an obvious impossibility, but afterwards believed. God said, "Walk uprightly. Throw away your stick". He believed and later had six more children (Gen. 25:1,2, Rom. 4:7-21).

It is by faith that we overcome. God uses many means to give us strong faith. God appeared to Abraham in Genesis 12, and Abraham believed. But God was not satisfied; he wanted a stronger faith. Abraham had to believe that God had some new kind of power to show him, even the power of resurrection. Strong faith is not a **human qualification**, but **the gift of God**. How often with anxiety we keep on shedding tears, because of fear and unbelief.

Sometimes the fear is the fear of man. Let people say what they want about you. When we began this work of God, many wrote and slandered us, but we made no attempt to defend ourselves, and true to His Word, God never allowed any weapon formed against us to prosper (Isa. 54:17). So do not give way to fear and unbelief. In Ph 1, 4-6 we are told to be anxious for nothing. How many children of God worry about the house rent, furniture, or the future. Even if I lack today, one day He will enable me to enjoy all things.

4 God's fourth covenant was with Moses. (Deuteronomy 18:15). In fulfilment of that covenant the Lord Jesus Christ is our prophet. As the children of Israel heard the voice of God through Moses, so now every believer can hear the voice of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 3:6-16 we read about hearing His voice three times. We become overcomers by hearing the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever I do otherwise, will be shaken and burned up. I must hear His voice for my personal life, family life and church life. Such a voice makes me an overcomer. "Lord, keep my ears sensitive to Thy voice."

5 God's fifth covenant was with David. (2 Samuel 7:12-13). David was shown God's pattern for the House of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is building the true House of God, and by taking part in that House we become overcomers. David vowed in Psalm 132:4, 5 that he would not rest till he had found a dwelling place for God.

At first David thought that God wanted him to be a better king. Later he found that God had a higher plan for him.

In 1 Chron. 28:19, the plan for the temple was given to David after he was completely freed from human wisdom. What we call knowledge God calls chaff. On one occasion in

1 Chron. 13, he organized a grand procession, with a military band to bring up the ark of God to Jerusalem. But he did not ask God for His plan. They carried the ark in a new cart which was the wrong way. When they came to the threshing floor God sifted out the chaff. In Numbers 7:9 God commanded that the things of the sanctuary should be borne on the shoulders of the priests.

How many of God's servants are depending upon human cleverness to do God's work and not on God's order. In 1 Chron. 15:11-13 David repents. He confesses that he did not find God's due order at first. We can never change God's plan, or substitute **human wisdom** or zeal or sincerity. Preachers today want to see crowds, and results, but do not want to obey God's Word. They will use worldly songs and other means to attract a crowd.

The second time David was brought to the threshing floor, is given in 2 Samuel 24. Pride had come into David's heart, and he was depending on his own strength. He was brought to the threshing floor, 2 Samuel 24:18 which later became the site of the temple as God had foreplanned (2 Chron. 3:1). We are living stones in God's true House (1 Peter 2:5) and must take our share in that House. This does not mean that we think only of meetings, sit in the same seat, have no burden for souls, go to sleep during the message, and then go home. What is my true position in God's House? Overcomers are those who take their share in building God's House, which is the whole Church of God and not a sect, or a denomination.

6. God's sixth covenant was with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Psalm 2:7-8). The nations and the uttermost parts of the earth have been promised to the Lord Jesus Christ as His inheritance. We must claim His possession as His co-workers.

(2 Cor. 6.1). He has inheritance in Australia, Canada, America, as well as in India. We are then to claim that inheritance. He has died for all men; but the devil has taken charge. These souls must be delivered. I am here in His Name. I must go in His Name to claim His inheritance for the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. God's seventh covenant is with the believer. (Hebrews 10:12-17) By the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ sin is gone for ever (Isaiah 43:25). His laws will be written in our hearts. Though a man be illiterate, God can give him knowledge of divine things in spite of his human limitations. I can enjoy heavenly mysteries because of God's covenant with me. Whenever I see the rainbow, I believe afresh in God's covenant and by faith in God's Word, and in His unchanging covenants, God lifts us higher and higher.

Rev. 21.7 promises that the overcomer will inherit all things. God's purpose in helping us to overcome is that we shall be qualified to inherit all things and enjoy fully what God has for us in the New Creation.

Rev. 4 and 5. These chapters reveal the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenly Church when the Church is perfected. "Come up hither," the voice said, so that He might reveal to John the things which must be hereafter, the heavenly perfect Church; what we shall see, what we shall be, what shall be our future position; what is going to happen in the end time, and in the life to come.

To understand those heavenly mysteries we must learn to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25). Those who walk in the flesh find it difficult to understand, for this is not understood by intellectual understanding.

The throne of our Lord Jesus Christ is the central object

in heaven: Rev. 4:2. He that sat upon it was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone (Rev. 4:3), absolutely transparent, faultless, perfect in purity and holiness; and He wants us to be partakers of that holiness (Hebrews 12:10).

The whole Church consists of those who are redeemed by His Blood out of every kindred, tongue and nation (Rev. 5:8,9).

A Crown (Rev. 4:4) speaks of authority. Adam had been given authority which he lost through disobedience (Genesis 1:26). But the Lord Jesus Christ made us kings and priests and paid a high price to do so (Revelation 1:6).

Those who have not defiled their garments shall be worthy to walk with Him in white raiment (Rev. 3:4). In Jude 23, we are exhorted to hate even the garments spotted by the flesh. These are they who have not defiled their garments. We are not to be deceived by worldly attractions. Many believers imitate the people of the world in dress, conversation, habits and haircut. White raiment is given to those who have not defiled their garment. This is illustrated in Gen. 35:2 where Jacob told his family to put away strange gods, and to change their garments. While Jacob was busy with the cattle, his wife and children were imitating the world, wearing worldly garments. Through such things as TV, radio and worldly parties we become defiled.

There was a rainbow round about the throne (Rev. 4:3). The question comes how we weak human beings with so many limitations can come to the throne. If a beggar is told he will be given some food, he will believe it. But if he is told he is going to be a king he will not believe it. We can believe God has forgiven our sins. But how can we overcome and share His throne? The rainbow tells us God's answer, it

is His covenant. Even as God promised the land to Abraham, and though Israel has been stubborn, hard and rebellious, yet God has brought them back to the land from 84 countries, so also will He be true to His covenant with us.

There were lightnings, thunderings and voices out of the throne (Rev. 4:5). These speak of judgments. We are to be made partakers with the Lord Jesus Christ in the coming judgments. The overcomers will be made judges (1 Cor. 6:3). The seven Spirits of God speak of the fullness of the Holy Spirit, (Rev. 4:5). The sea of glass speaks of multitude of God's people (Rev. 4:6). The four beasts and twenty-four elders are also part of the Church for in Revelation 5:9 they fell down together and sang, "... thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood."

The Four Beasts:

The four beasts speak of the four great virtues of the Lord Jesus Christ, of which we partake when we come under His Headship.

The lion: The lion is the strongest of beasts (Prov. 30:29,30). It goes straight across a river even though the current is strong. It is never carried away by the current. It will not turn away for anybody or anything. We as believers are often carried away by the current and imitate worldly people. When worldly people wear short dresses, believers also wear short dresses. If worldly people wear long dresses, believers also wear long dresses. Because long hair is now the fashion, long hair is being shipped from India to America! True believers in the Lord Jesus Christ must go straight even if it means going against the current. Do not let the world carry you away. Some follow preachers, others follow fashions.

The Calf is used for ploughing (Matt. 11:28). A weak ox is yoked to a strong ox which carries most of the burden. In the same way if I take His yoke upon me, the Lord Jesus Christ bears my burden.

The man: The Lord Jesus became a Man like us. He allowed Himself to be tempted like us (Heb. 2:17). Once I was coming home hungry and tired, and saw these words on a wayside pulpit, "made like unto his brethren". God spoke to me, "If I am hungry, He is hungry, if I am tired, He is tired. I walked home very joyfully and found new strength in that knowledge. Matt. 4:1,2 show Him tempted and hungry. He is willing to bear all my weakness, as Hebrews 4:15 shows, for He is touched with the feeling of my infirmities. So we can come boldly to the throne of grace. "Yes Lord, I have done wrong. I have told a lie. Please forgive me. I am weak." In every sin, in every weakness, come to Him.

The eagle: (Deut. 32:11) The eagle builds a nest in a high place. The young ones are taught to fly by the mother shaking the nest and pushing them out. The little birds fall, but the mother flies underneath them and lifts them up on her wings. This is God's way. He shakes our nest and our plans are broken, to teach us to rest on Him. By this means we can learn to fly very high.

We receive these four characteristics by coming under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Elders:

Rev. 4:10. The elders represent the overcomers full of praise. The strongest proof of an overcomer is that he is full of worship. If there is no worship there is little growth. We may have good teaching, but if there is no worship there is

no growth. Simple believers often worship the Lord with shining faces. Educated believers with much Bible knowledge, in time of worship start to pray instead of worship. We tell the believers there should be no prayers, no requests, only worship before the breaking of the bread.

Worship is growth. The wise men came with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, though as yet they had no experience of salvation (Matt. 2:11). Gold stands for divinity and frankincense stands for resurrection. Myrrh represents suffering. True worship cannot be without experience. In Luke 7:38, the woman came trembling. She knew she was a sinner, but knew also that He would forgive her. She did not come for healing, but she kissed His feet, "Lord, I know Thou hast forgiven me," her action said. She came repenting and trembling. She knew she was forgiven so she kissed His feet and anointed them with ointment as an act of worship. This is worship by experience.

In John 12:3 there is a still deeper experience. God's power is manifested in the whole household; first, what He has done for me, and then, what He has done for others in my family.

In Matt. 26:7 the woman poured ointment on His head, not on His feet as in Luke 7:38. This woman was not doing it for herself. She saw He was to die for the whole world, and her action said, "Now I praise Thee for what Thou art doing in every part of the world." By true worship we grow spiritually.

Mysteries are not understood by human wisdom (Rev. 5:3). We must go upon our knees and claim the precious Blood for understanding. Then the mysteries are revealed to us. If

you seek understanding by commentaries and big books only, the true revelation of the mysteries will not become so clear to you. John 1:29 shows us that we must know Him first as the Lamb of God. Mohammedans accept Him as prophet, but not as God's Lamb. By the Lamb and His precious Blood we understand the mysteries.

In John 20:17, He said to Mary "Touch me not". In Matt. 28:9 women held Him by the feet. These two events happened the same morning. Why? He had to ascend to Heaven before anyone could touch Him. Why did He ascend? Hebrews 9:12 gives the answer. In the Old Testament the high priest could go behind the veil only once a year with blood. Then divine fire would fall upon the blood. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Heavenly High Priest. He has entered once into the Holy place, by His own Blood. Every sin we commit by thought, word or deed, leaves its mark upon the conscience, like sounds on a tape-recorder. When we sin we must claim the precious Blood immediately (Heb.9:14).

In the midst stood a Lamb as it had been slain. No commentary can open the book. Only the slain Lamb. Rev. 5:6,7. The word Lamb is mentioned in the book of Revelation twenty-eight times. This gives a twenty-eight fold meaning of the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The seven horns show that He is a King, for the horns mean kingship (Rev. 17:12). He is a Heavenly King with an everlasting Kingdom. 1 Timothy 6:15. Revelation 19:16, Daniel 2:44;7:14. We are invited to be with Him as kings in that kingdom. The more we are cleansed by the precious Blood, the more clear will be our spiritual sight or understanding.

The seven eyes speak of the great secret of the fulness of the Holy Spirit by identification with the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no fulness without the Cross. The more you are identified with the Cross, the more you are filled. This does not come by prayer or by fasting, but by faith. Believe you are the weakest person on the earth, die to yourself, die to your will. That is fulness. You cannot die by your own efforts. You can commit suicide, but you cannot crucify yourself, someone must nail you there. I cannot crucify myself, I must ask the Lord to take away my desire for power by the power of His Cross, to take away my wil., and my plans by the same power. In Colossians 2:9-10, we are told that we are complete in Him. This is real fulness.

Revelation 5:7-10 shows us that by worshipping we get a deeper understanding of the work of Christ, and what He has made us. Worship is the big secret of fulness. Many say long prayers, but there is no worship. In Luke 17:15 we read that all the lepers were cleansed, but only one gave thanks, and he received the blessing.

In Rev. 5:11, the angels are standing but the elders are sitting. Angels will serve us in the coming new creation (Hebrews 1:13,14). We shall give commands and they will obey (Isaiah 45:11).

Al. His riches are for us (Rev. 5:12-14), and we are made partakers of His glory. The four beasts and the twenty four elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation chapters 6 to 10

These chapters should be read together, as they speak of the same period. In Daniel 9:24,25 the prophet Daniel was told that seventy weeks were to pass. In prophecy

a day is given for a year. See Ezekiel 4 : 6. Six great events were to be accomplished in those 70 weeks. The time was to be divided into three periods.

1. The first division was from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36 : 21-23). In forty-six years Jerusalem and the temple were rebuilt under Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah.
2. The second division was from the completion of Jerusalem to the Cross. This was 62 weeks or 434 days. On that day Christ died according to the prophecy.
3. The third division of one week was to cover the confirmation covenant made by the "prince that shall come," which is Anti-Christ. This period of one week corresponds with the period of Rev. 6 to 10. It is one week, that is seven years.

In the middle of the week, i.e. after $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, Anti-Christ will cause the sacrifices to cease, and as we read more clearly in Mat. 24:15 the abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place. So greatly will he deceive that at the beginning, the Jews will accept Anti-Christ as the Messiah.

The Lamb opens the seals, and as the **first seal** is broken John sees a white horse (Rev. 6:1-2). The rider on the white horse is not the Lord Jesus Christ. The white horse on which He will ride is seen in Rev. 19:11-16. The Anti-Christ comes trying to deceive people that he is Christ. He has power to conquer in the first period of three-and-a-half years and goes about making leagues and covenants with many people. Because of disorder and confusion the world

will need the help of some great and wise person. The world authorities will appoint the Anti-Christ as their leader, and he will become a world dictator.

In the **second seal** the rider on the red horse in Rev. 6:3-4 is given a great sword. This speaks of the many wars. Matt. 24:6-8; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:10. This is the beginning of sorrows, the first part of the tribulation era, when there will be strikes and violence in many countries.

At the **third seal** is revealed a black horse in Rev. 6:5-6 which foretells a great famine for food in many parts of the world. A measure of wheat or three measures of barley were to be sold for the price of man's full wages for a day. But the oil and wine, symbols of man's pleasures, were to be unchanged. Those who can afford will still have their pleasures, eating and drinking while others starve. Eating and drinking for pleasure though there is no food.

In Rev. 6:8 the **fourth seal** revealed the rider on the pale horse which is Death accompanied by Hell Power is given to him to destroy a quarter of earth's inhabitants by war, and starvation and by hungry wild animals.

At the **fifth seal**, in Rev. 6:9-11, John saw that many who are faithful will be killed. There will be worldwide persecution which goes on till the end of the tribulation (Rev. 10:7), till the mystery of God is finished. Many will be born again during the tribulation period (Rev. 7:9,13,14). These are before the throne of God.

In Rev. 6:12-17, at the **sixth seal**, the sun became black, the moon as blood and the stars of heaven fell to the earth. Compare Matt. 24:29. Rather than repent of their sins the people of the earth, great and small, try to escape the judgment.

of God. There are kings, great men, rich and proud, some bondmen but mostly the great and rich. Those in wealth and position find it hard to repent.

Rev. 7:14. It is here we read of the sealing of the 144,000 of Israel, which refers to the conversion of the Jews as a nation (Isaiah 66:5-8). When Anti-Christ begins to offer the sacrifice of abomination their eyes are opened (Matt. 24:15). Anti-Christ then begins to persecute the Jews. 144,000 is a symbolic number: 12,000 of each tribe, 12 is the number of government and foundation. The number speaks of those Jews who have fully repented and overcome.

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands, And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9-10).

This great multitude are those who have passed through the great tribulation (v. 14). They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. God Himself will dwell among them and they will never again hunger or thirst. The Lamb will feed them and lead them to living fountains of water, and God Himself shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation chapters 8 and 9 tell of the last days of suffering. There is silence in heaven, for the time is very serious (Rev. 8:1). The prayers of those interceding for the protection of God's people during this period are answered.

To seven angels were given seven trumpets in Rev. 8:2. The first angel sounded his trumpet and hail and fire—divine fire, fell upon the earth. The second angel sounded and a burning mountain was cast into the sea. There was judgment on earth and sea. The third angel sounded, and a great star fell on the rivers and fountains of water. This was God's systematic judgment on the earth. The fourth angel sounded, and divine judgment fell on sun, moon and stars (v. 12). Men may touch the moon, but they cannot destroy the sun, moon and stars. Only God can do this. The fifth angel sounded, (Rev. 9:1) and God's judgment fell on the whole universe. Even an atomic bomb cannot shake the stars, but God will (Heb. 12:26,27).

God allowed strange creatures to come upon the earth, for judgment (Rev. 9:3). When God wants to intervene in the affairs of man, creatures can be created for the purpose of God at His command. If men refuse God's love and mercy, and go on rejecting the gospel there must be judgment. This is the beginning of hell fire. The creatures had hair like women which is God's judgment on those who, full of lust, have been worshipping women (Rev. 9:7-10). Those creatures had a king over them, Apollyon, the angel of the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11). Though there was judgment, men did not repent but became harder and harder.

In Rev. 9:13 the sixth angel sounded and more terrible creatures were sent on the earth by whom a third part of men were killed. Seven thousands uttered their voices, bringing in the last part of the tribulation, but what the thunders said was so terrible that John was told to seal them up and utter them not. In Rev. 10:7 John was told that when the seventh trumpet

would sound, the mystery of God would be finished. God has a certain number whom He brings right through the tribulation (Rev. 10:9,10). The angel gives John a little book which in his mouth was as sweet as honey, but in his belly it was bitter. There is the sweetness of reward and the bitterness of judgment. The message of the gospel must go to all the nations. Rev. 10:11

Revelation chapters 11 to 19. These chapters contain a description of the last 3½ years of the tribulation period. The Jews as a nation repented at the end of the first part of the tribulation period, and are then bitterly persecuted (Matt. 24:15-22)

Rev. 11:1-2 There was a small remnant in the temple but the court of the temple was to be trodden under foot for 3½ years, the second half of the tribulation period.

In Matt. 17:3 two men appear with the Lord Jesus on the Mount, and were talking about His suffering and death. These were Moses and Elijah. Two witnesses (Rev. 11:3) perhaps the same, will come again to warn people of the coming wrath and judgments.

In Rev. 11:6 though they warn men and perform miracles, the people will not repent. The two witnesses prophesy from Jerusalem and it is possible there will be a small remnant in the temple with them.

Then the beast appears out of the bottomless pit (Rev. 11:7). He appears suddenly as one who has come to life again, and the two witnesses are killed by the Anti Christ in Jerusalem.

Rev. 11:8-10 Everybody rejoices over their dead bodies, but after 3½ days God raises them up, and they ascend

to heaven. The same hour
thousand men are killed.

Rev. 11:11, 16, before the Kingdom of Christ can begin
He must judge the Anti-Christ

The seventh angel sounds, and now all can see that the
Lord Jesus Christ is going to reign.

In verse 19, there is a warning of coming judgments,
and to the end the Lord gives a chance to men to repent.

Compare Rev. 12:1, Song of Solomon 6:10 and Malachi
4:2. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Sun of righteousness. Here
is a woman clothed with the sun; she is fully identified with
the Lord Jesus Christ. The moon represents God's prophets.
They have no light of their own, but what they receive, they
give to the Church (Eph. 4:11). God conveys light to the
Church through His servants. The moon at the feet of the
woman means that it is at her service. Even so God's servants
are to serve the Church. Upon her head are 12 stars. Through
the ministry of the twelve apostles believers began to
understand the Headship of the Lord Jesus (Col. 1:16-18).

The woman in Rev. 12:2 is with child, travailing in
birth. There is tribulation and suffering and hardship for those
who want to follow the Lord fully. The dragon in verse 3, with
seven heads and ten horns is Anti-Christ. In Rev. 17:9 we read
of seven mountains, and in verse 12 of ten kingdoms. That
speaks of the ten powers of Europe. Jerusalem is built on four
mountains. Rome is the only city in the world built on seven
mountains. Here is Anti-Christ with his head-quarters at
Rome.

Rev. 12:4 The dragon stood before the woman. The
Church of the Lord Jesus Christ brings forth a man-child, who
is to rule all nations with a rod of iron; compare what Rev.

2 26, 27 says of the overcomer. The rod of iron speaks of wrath and judgment. God's mercy and love have been shown but now from chapter 11 onwards come judgment and wrath. In Rev. 12.5 the man-child is caught up to God and the throne

Rev 12:6. Then the woman fled. These are the believers still on the earth, who flee to the wilderness to hide for three and a half years, and there God feeds them

In Rev. 12:6-9 the Devil comes with three weapons:

1. He deceives (verse 9).
- 2 He accuses (verse 10).
3. He persecutes (verse 13).
1. He has deceived the whole world with all kinds of wrong teaching (2 Cor. 11-14) coming as an angel of light.
2. He is the accuser of the brethren. Believers will be arrested, will be tried and faced with charges as has happened already through Communists
- 3 Because of his persecution, believers will suffer torment, and agony, and be killed as has happened in China, Russia and other places.

We too have three weapons with which to overcome the devil. Rev 12-11

1 The first is the Blood of the Lamb. As we keep on claiming the precious Blood, sprinkling our conscience constantly, we have boldness in God's presence, and inward cleansing. By faith we have eternal life through the Blood of

Jesus Christ, just as we have physical life through the blood in our veins. If there is no blood, there is no life. Compare Heb. 10:22, Heb. 9:14 and John 6:51-58. Those who eat the Bread of life and drink His Blood shall live for ever. By faith we drink His Blood. By faith we claim the sprinkling from an evil conscience. By His precious Blood we are protected from the enemy and his wiles.

2. The second is the word of our testimony. We cannot defeat the devil by argument. At every opportunity we should give our testimony to what God has done for us.

3. The third weapon is we should not love our lives unto death. By a bold stand we are able to defeat the enemy. In Rev. 12:13-16, the believers are being persecuted and the overcomers are caught up. Daniel 7:7-9, 15-18 are being fulfilled in these verses. The saints possess the kingdom, even the overcomers. Anti-Christ goes to make war with the woman, i.e. the believers (Rev. 12:17).

Now the kingdom of Anti-Christ spreads very rapidly. Rev. 13:1, 2. By the wound upon his head the deceiver will tell people that he was dead and is now alive again. He has a mouth that speaks great things and blasphemies, and continues for three-and-a-half years. All the earth will be worshipping the Anti-Christ, but believers will be revived through persecution and suffering (vs. 7-9). As the Holy spirit causes the believers to worship Christ, so the false prophet will cause men to worship the Anti-Christ (vs. 11-15). He will do miracles. Here is Satan's Trinity: Anti-Christ, false prophet, and the image.

The false prophet also decrees that no man will be able to buy or sell unless he has the mark of the beast on his forehead, or the number of his name, 666. In the days of

rationing we have to have a card. In India some have a mark on their forehead to show whom they worship. In those coming days men will have to have the mark of the beast, or his name or the number of his name in order to buy or sell. That will mean they have agreed to worship the beast (vs.16-18).

In Rev. 14:1-3 we read of 144,000 with the Lamb on Mount Zion: these are the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb. This is not the same 144,000 as in Revelation 7 who were converted Jews. This is again a symbolic number, 12 times 12,000. Twelve speaks of a strong foundation and divine order and government. This represents a company of overcomers, who have come on a strong foundation.

We must note the following.

1) They are not defiled with women. 2) They are not overcome by lust. 3) They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. 4) They are the firstfruits to God. In Lev. 23:10 we read of the sheaf of the firstfruits. In 1 Cor. 15:20 Christ is called the firstfruits of them that slept; in v.23 "every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

In Rev 14:6 an angel flying in the midst of heaven has the everlasting gospel to preach. Many were worshipping idols worldwide, but God in his mercy gave them another warning of judgment; of the fall of Babylon the great city (v.8) and of the punishment for those who worship the beast and his image (vs. 9,10). Certainly it would be better to suffer and die than to worship the beast. The time had come for God's wrath to be poured out (vs. 14-20). Details are given in chapter 16 onwards. God's message to us at this time is given in 2 Thess 2:2-10.

In Rev. 17, God's judgment falls on Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Roman religious system which has defiled all the higher powers (vs 2-4) and has slain believers (v.6) Verses 12 and 13 speak of the confusion in the last days. The rulers of earth give their power to the Anti-Christ and he takes over Peoples, and multitudes, nations and tongues are defiled by the whore which reigns over the kings of the earth (v 18).

In Rev. 18:4 the last chance is given, a voice from heaven calls: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." That judgment took place in one hour, and the great city was thrown down (vs. 8, 21). By her were the nations deceived and in her was found the blood of prophets and saints and of all that were slain upon the earth (v.24).

Then comes the marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19 7) and He that is called 'Faithful and True' comes from an open heaven on a white horse (v.11)

Chapter 20

The Devil is seized and bound for a thousand years (Rev. 20:2, 3). Those who had been slain for their testimony of Jesus, and those who did not take the mark of the beast on their foreheads or in their hands have part in the first resurrection and live and reign with Christ a thousand years (v 4)

At the end of the thousand years Satan is loosed (vs.7, 8) and goes out to deceive the nations again, and to gather them together to battle. But fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them. Then the devil is judged and cast

into the lake of fire (v.10), and the dead are raised to stand before the great white throne. Those whose names are not written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire (vs. 11-15).

Chapters 21, 22

The first, that is the present heaven and earth, pass away in Rev. 21:1 and a new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, are prepared by God (2 Pet. 3:13). The New Jerusalem, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband comes down from God out of heaven (v.2). Then God declares: "Behold, I make all things new" (v.5). A beautiful picture of the bride, the Lamb's wife is given in Rev 21:9-27. In that wonderful paradise, the tree of life is restored, and there is no more curse. The throne of God, and of the Lamb is in it and His servants shall serve Him, and they shall see His face and His Name shall be in their foreheads, Rev. 22:1-4. They have right to the tree of life and to enter in through the gates into the city (v. 14). Eating the fruit of the tree of life enables them to enjoy all things of the New Creation. Verses 18 and 19 contain final warnings against adding to or taking away from the words of the prophecy of this book and the book closes with the marvellous promise: **"Surely I come quickly: Amen"**; and the writer replies: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus", and adds: **"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen"** (Rev 22:20, 21)



2. THE SEVEN COVENANTS

Before we begin this study I would ask you to read Revelation chapter 4, and mark in your Bibles, verse 3. "And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald". I want you to note particularly the word rainbow.

This book of Revelation has a very helpful and important message for the end days and there is a special blessing promised for reading this book. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Rev. 1:3). "Behold, I come quickly blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of this book" (Rev. 22:7). These verses show us that the message of this book is intended to prepare us for the second appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is why there is an extra blessing promised to those who read and keep the sayings of this book.

By the signs which we can see everywhere we are in the end days. In 2 Timothy 3:1-13 are given signs of the end days. Count them yourself, and you will find thirty signs of the last days recorded in this chapter: "THIS know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, without mercy, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which

creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra, what persecutions I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." Here you have thirty signs recorded so clearly. You go to any country you will find these signs being fulfilled. For this reason you will find much help by reading slowly and prayerfully the book of Revelation. There is no need to be troubled about certain of the details. Only go through the book slowly and prayerfully verse by verse, and you will find much help and illumination. In due course the Lord will show the deeper meaning of the details.

I have found it very helpful to divide the book into seven parts, for thereby we have seven glimpses of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The more we see His glory, and the more we remember His greatness, the more power we have in our lives. In fact, the power of God coming into our lives depends upon this revelation of Christ but even so, we do not fully know Him. He is so great and so mighty, so wonderful, so precious, and so beautiful that it would take us eternity really to know Him.

Many years ago I went to see the Niagara Falls in

Canada. There were five of us in the party, and we had travelled many miles to see the Falls. After we had watched for two hours, my friends said to me, "We are returning now", but I said: "I have been hearing so much about these Falls, and they are supposed to be one of the Seven Wonders of the world, I would like to see something more of them." They answered: "It is after all only a sheet of water, and now we have seen it, let us go back." I replied, "No; I am sure there is something more to it." So they all went back, but I stayed on for a few more days. I visited the falls before sunrise, after sunset, and then on a moon light night I walked up and down. Every time I saw something new; some new fascination, some new charm, some new wonder. Having looked at it for only a short time my friends could not see anything special. In the same way it requires time to meditate upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and His Word before we even begin to see how great He is. It is one thing to sing, "How Great Thou Art"; and even to sing it with great joy, but do you really know from the heart how great He is? If I realize how great He is, I would spend time in His presence, looking only at His face, to see His glory and beauty. People who like flowers go miles and miles to pluck them and enjoy their beauty. Those who want to enjoy the mountains will climb the highest mountain peak and go through much suffering only to see the beauty of the mountain. The Lord Jesus Christ is far more glorious than the Himalaya mountains and He is worthy of all the time you can give to Him.

As we saw above, in the book of the Revelation we are given seven glimpses of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the first chapter we see Him as our everlasting, eternal, unchanging High Priest. We could spend one month on this chapter alone, and go through every detail, His hair, His eyes,

His mouth, His hands, His feet, His garments, and His girdle. Then we shall only begin to know and understand His greatness

In the second and third chapters of Revelation we have the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as He is revealed by working in His Church, who are His people upon the earth. How quietly and in His own way He continues to defeat the devil, not by worldly weapons, wisdom, or cleverness, but by His love and grace and power. As He said: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." That point is so clearly evident in the second and third chapters of Revelation. We have the whole of Church history recorded in these two chapters, in seven messages which can each be divided into seven parts. In other words we have forty-nine messages in the second and third chapters alone, where the glory and majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ are revealed to His people.

Even though we may be foolish and illiterate, by coming to Christ we become mighty. We have seen the Lord Jesus working thus in India. People who are illiterate, who cannot read, when they are born again become men of God. They can teach you the Word of God, they can pray for hours together, they have shining faces, they rejoice in every situation; they thank God for everything and they know how to worship Him. Thus the Lord defeats the devil through vessels that men count unworthy. When men become His partners and co-workers and obey Him, He can defeat the devil.

Now in chapters four and five we have a glimpse of the Lord Jesus Christ in His heavenly Church, of which we

shall be a part when we go to heaven, because we have seen Him and been with Him, and have been His active partners here and now

Then from chapter six to chapter nineteen we have the glory of the judgments of the Lord Jesus Christ. Upon the earth we may be very foolish, but the day is coming when we shall be His partners in judgment, as the Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 6:3, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?"

Then in chapter twenty in the first part we have the glory of the Millennial reign over the earth, when the Lord Jesus Christ comes back upon the earth to reign after judging His enemies, and we become His true kings and priests upon the earth.

Then in the last part of the same chapter, we have the glory of the great white throne judgment after the Millennium when He will cast death and hell into the Lake of Fire. Then the devil also finally is cast into the Lake of Fire.

In chapters 21 and 22 we have the glory of the new creation, when we see God's true glory as the Lord says in 21:5, "Behold, I make all things new." Similarly in verse 23, "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: the Lamb is the light thereof."

If you thus divide this book of Revelation into seven parts, you will find it a simple study. You take the first chapter, then the second and the third, then the fourth and the fifth chapters, then from six to chapter nineteen, then chapter 20, first part and second part, and finally chapters 21 and 22. Thus, going on step by step you will find the study very helpful

But here I am concerned with a tiny fragment of chapter 4 verse 1 "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven; and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me, which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter" The Lord Jesus gave a glimpse of heaven to John the Apostle, saying "Come up" It is not an earthly scene "Now John", He says in effect, "don't look at the earth." At that time John was very discouraged. We read in God's Word how there had risen a great persecution against the believers, and many believers like Demas had forsaken the Lord and gone back.

Many were in prison, many were scattered and many were killed. That is why John the Apostle on the Isle of Patmos, was feeling very sad, downcast and discouraged. All of us have had similar experiences. Things happen in our lives which we cannot explain, and hence we feel discouraged. "I wonder, Lord what next?" we think. When we see the Devil so active we forget that God's Word tells us clearly that the Devil will come against us as a roaring lion. It is a warning. He will also come against us like a ravening wolf. What a warning! Also, he may come like an angel. Another warning! Or he may come like a flood. He always comes like a roaring lion, or a wolf, or like an angel, or a flood. We must be careful, but we must not worry about it. As long as we know the Lord is working, we are safe. But John got downcast and discouraged so the Lord said "John, come up now, and let Me show you what kind of Church I am building. I am not after buildings on this earth."

God is never after crowds. We men are very happy when we see a big crowd. That is our nature. But the Lord

Jesus Christ never went after multitudes - they came after Him! They came, and they went away!

They were not happy with Him for too long. John 6:2 says "And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased." Further, John 6:56, "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him." Now from verse 60, "Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" A hard saying! When men are given a real message it is a hard saying. Our Lord told His hearers eight times from verses 51 to 58 how they could live forever. You would think they would have been so happy. The Lord said to them, "Now you come to Me. You eat Me, you drink Me and you will live forever. You will never die." But what happened? They got angry. It was such a hard saying they got offended and went away. In verse 66 we read, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." Do you think our Lord would go and apologize? "Please come back". They went away, and He let them go.

Our Lord was never after multitudes. He wants only those who want to live forever, whether they be few or many. So here our Lord was saying: "John, don't look at the persecution; don't look at the downfall of the believers, I have my own way of helping them. I am building My Church, come up and see in heaven how the work goes on and what kind of Church I want." Rev. 4:2. "And immediately I was in the Spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne!" The Lord was saying: "John, do you want to know Me more? Learn to be in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25) "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk

in the Spirit." Many people only talk about the Spirit, but they do not live in the Spirit. It is one thing to keep on boasting about the Spirit. The question is, do you walk in the Spirit? God's Word says so clearly in Rom 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

If anyone claims to have the fulness of the Holy Ghost they have got to prove that they are able to find God's will at every step, and in every detail great or small. In God's Word we find that the whole life of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who was full of the Holy Spirit, was lived in doing God's will. John 4:34, "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish His work" John 5:30: "I can of mine own self do nothing, as I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek not mine own will but the will of the Father which hath sent me". Again John 6:38: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me". John 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine." That is my test of the fulness of the Spirit of God. His will! His will! You find the same in the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ in Gethsemane. Matthew 26:39: "Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." It is only by knowing and doing God's perfect will even in the smallest thing which proves that we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. We are given the filling of the Holy Spirit to be led by Him and to walk in God's perfect path. In Rev. 4:2 John said: "I was in the Spirit". Through the Spirit he saw clearly things that were in heaven. Our whole life has to be controlled by the Holy Spirit! Through the Spirit he saw clearly things that were in heaven. Our whole life has to be controlled by the Holy Spirit in all things, not only in tongue, but also in practice, and also in the smallest thing, if we wish to prove how, when, and where we have found God's will.

What happened when John arrived in heaven? The answer is in Rev 4:2, "And, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne." That is the first thing he saw. Our Lord was saying: "John, I am not after people merely to forgive their sins. I want them to be my kings," as we saw in Rev 1:6, "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

But why both kings and priests? And who are the priests? In the Old Testament the priests had a double privilege. Only the priest could go behind the veil, hear the voice of God, and bring God's message to the people. What they received from God they had to share with the people. That was their ministry as priests. Now every believer is a priest, and thank God we have the privilege of going to God at any time, any where, with any need, and call upon Him, hear His voice, and receive His message. You can say by faith, "Lord, give me a message for my mother who is not well. Give me a message for my friend who is discouraged. Lord, give a message for so and so who is in darkness, in wrong teaching." Day by Day we can go to Him and receive His message for people in different situations. There are so many who do not understand this privilege. God tells us we are kings also and that was why John the Apostle was seeing a throne. He was wonderstruck! God was saying: "John, My people have to suffer upon the earth." John was wondering why persecution, affliction, and suffering, why hardship, why this and that. The Lord's answer was to reveal His throne! You cannot be a king without proper preparation. All our suffering upon the earth, whatever it may be, of persecution, affliction, sickness and sorrow are the means of preparing us for the

kings.

I remember a story of Queen Victoria. When she was a small girl, she did not know that one day she would be the Queen of England. They told all the nurses, "Now don't tell this child don't spoil her childhood days don't tell her that she is going to be the queen." She was very fond of playing with dolls. One day looking at a family album she found out that she was the next heir to the throne of England. She questioned the nurse, "Is it true? Am I going to be the queen?" They kept quiet for a while, but in the end they had to tell her "Yes, it is quite true, one day you will be the queen." From that day there was no more playing with dolls. "I will be the queen," she said, "I am not going to waste my time any more with these silly things". And she became a good queen.

You have got to be prepared for kingship. I believe my Lord has called me to be a heavenly king. I will not be careless any more. I will let Him train me as He knows best, for His ways are not our ways, and He has a great purpose for my life.

Now see how David became a king. Read Psalm 18:5 and you will find the secret of becoming a king after God's own heart. David went through every hardship in eight years. In Psalm 18:5 he says "The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me." And in verse 6: "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears." Again in verse 16: "He sent from above he took me, he drew me out of many waters". And verse 17 "He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from

them which hated me for they were too strong for me'. Verse 18 "They prevented me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my stay." Verse 19 "He brought me forth also into a large place, he delivered me, because he delighted in me." Before David actually became a king, God had chosen him 1 Samuel 16, but it was only after eight years of suffering, afflictions, and hardship of the worst kind, that he became a good king, yes, after eight years of trial.

You cannot be a heavenly king without suffering, so when John saw the throne, he could say: "Now Lord, I know why these people at Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamos are suffering - it is because, we are heavenly kings." The Lord Jesus Christ did not come down just to forgive our sins, and allow us to occupy some corner in heaven somewhere. The Lord has a very high purpose in saving us. Otherwise why should He pay such a high price? Just think of what a high price He paid! In Hebrews 1, verses 2 and 3 we read: "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds, Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." The stars and planets were created by the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ - by only His Word. He just spoke and it was so. He said: "Come on, sun," and the sun came. "Come along moon," and the moon came into being. All the worlds were made by His word, and they are also being upheld by His word alone, He is the One Who says, "You stay here you stay there! And you stay there!" They cannot go beyond that command. And here is the mystery. To create the whole universe of worlds only His word was needed, but to save you and me, what a price! He

had to leave the heavenly throne and come down and become a babe, and bring upon Himself all limitations. He became hungry and weary and thirsty. He was limited for forty years. Then He gave His whole body to be broken. His hands and feet were pierced, every limb was lacerated. His face was spat upon. His hair was plucked; His back was scourged. His blood was shed. What a price! To my mind the price He paid to redeem us was far greater than all the power He had manifested in the creation of the whole universe. Scripture bears this out.

Now if He paid such a high price to save us, do you think He had no purpose in saving us? When any person spends much time on a certain object, it is because he has a purpose in doing so. The Lord Jesus Christ wants us to be the kings, His partners, co-workers, and His bride and for this He paid a very high price. Please turn again to Rev. 4:3-7. And he sat sitting as to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone, and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald." I can imagine how wonderstruck John must have been, and how he must have said: "Lord, it is so wonderful that one day we shall be enthroned as kings, but Lord, tell me how it is possible; tell me now how we men who are so foolish and so weak can ever dream of rising to such greatness." Then he saw the rainbow. Imagine a throne, in the middle, a lovely, heavenly throne and a great rainbow round about the throne. What a rainbow! Turn to Gen. 9:11-16. "And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood, neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations. I do set my bow in the cloud, and it

shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud, and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth." That is the meaning of the rainbow. It is the sign of the covenant that God made in the days of Noah.

Now you all know there are seven colours in a rainbow. First, violet, second indigo, then blue, then green, yellow, orange and red. You will find the same order everytime; it begins with violet and ends with red. When you go to Scotland, or any North country you will see the whole circle of the rainbow. A full rainbow, not only a half circle of the rainbow. In heaven was the throne surrounded by a beautiful rainbow of these seven colours, and that was the first thing that John saw. John was saying, "Lord, how shall we ever rise so high? Yes, Lord, I do understand, You are so loving and merciful. You can forgive sins. I believe that. I don't find any difficulty in believing it, for You are so gracious and merciful. But how can You lift me so high? I am so foolish and weak. How can I ever believe I shall be a king?" You tell a beggar in the street: "One day you will be a king," how can he believe you? John was saying, "Lord, how can I be a king?" but the Lord's answer was, "John, look at my rainbow. It is not because of you, it is because of My covenant". "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant unto a thousand generations" (Deut. 7:9).

He is the covenant-keeping God. What He has said He

will do. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:24). Now we say in theory, "Yes, God can do it. God can do everything," but in practice we do not act as though we believe it.

There was once a man walking upon a tight rope between bamboo poles. This is a very common sight in India especially in the north. One day there was a very big crowd gathered to see this man walking on the rope. He even took a man upon his shoulder and walked upon the rope. A small boy was looking at the man. "This is wonderful!" the boy said. "How can he walk upon a rope carrying a man on his shoulders?" The man came down and called the boy. "Do you believe that I can do it?" "Yes, I believe you can do it." "Very well, come along, I will carry you." "I am afraid," the boy said, "I won't come." The boy had said the man could do it, but he himself would not go, he was afraid.

In the same way I may say while preaching, that God is a mighty God, but in practice I do not show that I believe what I preach. God was saying "John, look at My rainbow. It is not because of you, it is because of My covenant, that I will lift you so high, - up to My throne," and that is why God says, "I will do My job provided My people will believe My Word." The Lord said again and again: "Go, thy faith hath made thee whole." "Be it unto thee according to your faith." We must believe what God says, for what He says is only true.

Even as there are seven colours, there are seven covenants which God has made with mankind. What are those seven covenants, by whose help we are being raised higher and higher till we reach God's throne itself? The day will come when we shall reign as heavenly kings with the King of kings, because of His covenants.

The first covenant made by God is found in Gen. 3.15 : "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." God promised that He would bring forth a Saviour through the woman, and that is why the Lord Jesus Christ came as the woman's seed and yet also the Son of God, because that which was conceived in her was of the Holy Ghost. The Devil sought to bruise the heel of the Lord Jesus by making people shout, "Crucify Him." As they were shouting at the cross, they were mocking and making fun of Him, and in this way the Devil was bruising the heel of the Lord Jesus Christ. But the very same heel has crushed the Devil as we find in Romans 16.20 "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." We do not defeat the Devil by miracles. We do not defeat him by signs or by dreams. We do not defeat him by fasting and long prayers. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself never defeated the Devil by miracles or by signs or by sermons. It is only when He said "It is finished" and died, that He defeated the Devil. Mohammedans, for example, believe in all the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in even more miracles than we do. They also believe in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His second coming. They believe that He suffered, but they say that He never died. They leave out one portion-- His death. But the Lord Jesus Christ had to die, and He died **according to the Scriptures. He was buried according to the Scriptures, He rose again according to the Scriptures.** He defeated the Devil by death. As He died, He took away our sin and condemnation, for only thus could He defeat death. Only in the same way can we also defeat the Devil, and never by mere Bible knowledge. We may keep on saying "Devil, don't trouble me, I know my Bible," and the Devil will answer: "I know more than you do." We cannot defeat the

Devil by Bible knowledge or by long prayers, but by the cross I am able to defeat him. I say, "Now, Devil, do not come near me for my Lord has defeated you at the cross. He died in my stead. He was buried to bury my sins. He rose again to live in me. By that faith we defeat the Devil and not by our good works nor by our own efforts or struggles. Many Christians live a life of defeat because they are trying to conquer Satan either by Bible knowledge or by some experience. God's victory is in the Cross (1 Cor. 1:18), "For the preaching of the cross is, to them that perish, foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." The Lord Jesus Christ by His bruised heel has crushed Satan and I take that victory for myself, by faith. That is His covenant. The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world for my sake, He died for my sake, and now I appropriate His victory every day to conquer all my sins and temptations, for it is by that we defeat the Devil and are ourselves prepared for His throne life. The power of resurrection coming in, fills me for this purpose.

The **second covenant** is mentioned in Gen. 9:15. "And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh." God said that there would be more sin than ever before in the world, so none can say that we are in any way better than men in the days of Noah. Sin has indeed increased throughout the world today, but because of God's covenant, He will not destroy the world with a flood. He will show grace to sinners and to that end He is waiting patiently. We grieve Him, wound Him, rebel against Him, and reject Him, yet He is so patient. He comes to us again and again saying, "My son, give me thine heart! My son, give me thine heart!" He goes on striving with us, and when we humble ourselves and confess our sins He

forgives us because of His second covenant. Even though we deserve the flood, because we are so ungodly, so rebellious, are so filthy, because of His grace we can call upon Him at any time saying: "Lord, I have sinned against Thee. I have grieved Thee, kindly forgive me." As we read in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He is always willing to forgive us even though our sins deserve great punishment for He bore the flood upon Himself; He took upon Himself our judgment and condemnation.

The **third covenant** was made with Abraham in Genesis 12:2,3 "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." The same covenant is confirmed in Genesis 17:5-7. "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham, for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee."

That is God's covenant with Abraham, and if we really believe God as Abraham did, we will also be given the same power. God kept Abraham waiting for 25 years. He became old and his wife became old. They both lost every hope of having a child. Then God put a new power in their bodies and they received the promised child. Rom. 4:19-22 tells us, "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet

the deadness of Sarai's womb . He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. And being fully persuaded, that what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness." That is how Abraham became righteous. At the age of 99 Abraham still believed, "Yes, God is able; even though I am old and my wife also is old, and humanly speaking there is no hope of having a child, yet God is able." By that faith Abraham became righteous, because he knew God must put new life into his body and also into the body of his wife.

It is the same with you and me. We can claim by faith the power of resurrection. We do not become righteous by our efforts. The Lord Himself is my righteousness. By that same faith every day I can claim the power of resurrection for all my trials and temptations. Whatever the temptation, trial, tribulation, or hardship I can say by faith, "Lord Jesus Christ, You have conquered death for me. Now will You please pour into me resurrection power, for all my trials and troubles?" and He surely gives it. Paul said in Phil. 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection." He did not say, "Lord, let me go once more to the third heaven." He did not say, "I want to see more miracles and signs." He said: "That I may know him and the power of his resurrection," and that is the third covenant. By faith we must claim the power of His resurrection for all our trials, temptations and tribulations, and thus become more than conquerors.

The **fourth covenant** which was made with Moses, is found in Deuteronomy 18:15. It reads thus: "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him ye shall hearken." God

spoke with Moses face to face, and Moses began to give God's message to other people. The Lord Jesus Christ is my heavenly Moses. He comes into me and through Him I hear God's voice clearly. I can go to Him and say, "Lord Jesus Christ, will You please reveal to me the will of Your Father, and show me Your heavenly plan?" Thus we can receive through Him all that we require for our daily instruction, guidance and help, because He is the living Prophet Who can give me all that is necessary for our need, vocation, and calling.

God's **fifth covenant** was with David in 2 Samuel 7:12-13. "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever." God promised to build a heavenly house through David's seed, and not by David himself. God gave David the pattern for the temple in 1 Chron. 28:19: "All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by his hand upon me even all the works of this pattern." Just as God gave David the pattern of the temple to be built by Solomon, so from the Lord Jesus Christ we have received the heavenly pattern of the heavenly Church. We are not called by God to build a society or fellowship or a congregation or a sect, but to build the heavenly Church under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Church which can contain God's fulness for ever. By receiving God's heavenly plan day by day under His Headship and Kingship we become part of His heavenly house.

The **sixth covenant** was with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, in Psalm 2:7-9. "I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son, this day have I

begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." God made a covenant with His Son that He would give Him all the nations for His inheritance. When you go to preach the Gospel, claim this promise. The devil has usurped the Lord's portion, but go out by faith, saying, "Lord Jesus Christ, this is Your inheritance. These people belong to You. You died for them," and by faith claim the inheritance on the ground that the Lord paid the price and died for them. He is the One Who ought to have them, and not the devil. With that faith we go out, giving the Gospel to all nations.

When you know a building belongs to you, you will not let it go, but will go on fighting for possession, saying: "This is my land, my building, my property, and I must have it." In the same way we as co-workers claim our Lord's inheritance among all nations, and to this end the Gospel is being preached among all nations. We are claiming by faith as the Lord's co-workers, the inheritance of the Lord Jesus Christ which He purchased by His own blood, till we eventually become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

The seventh and last covenant is found in the Epistle to Hebrews 10:16, 17: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." The seventh covenant is made with the believer. God is saying "I will put my laws into your heart, and even though you cannot read very well, and you cannot understand anything, the Holy

Spirit will teach you day by day all things." Such is the promise in John 16:13-14. "Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." Day by day the Holy Spirit will teach us, and even though we do not know Hebrew, Greek or other languages, we can learn all the things of God by simple faith. As we obey God and follow His leading we are taught automatically day by day all the deep heavenly mysteries. Matthew 13: 15-17 says: "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." God, by His Spirit, teaches us day by day deep, hidden, eternal, spiritual mysteries as we listen to His voice, even though we may be handicapped both intellectually and in other ways.

Now when you look at the rainbow in heaven you can say: "Lord, I believe in Your covenant; I am foolish but You are wise, I am weak but You are mighty. I have failed You but You are so gracious. Now Lord, I want to be with You upon the throne. Keep Your covenant, Lord!" Whenever you feel discouraged look at the rainbow. You will find all your sad thoughts will go away by looking at the rainbow for God is a covenant-keeping God. In the same way when you fall sick, pray: "Keep Your word, Lord, touch me and heal me." When you are discouraged ask Him, "Lord, give me Your strength, and new hope." By the same faith claim His promises for every need.

God is saying, "By My covenant I will bring you with Me upon My throne, and then you will reign with Me as My kings and My priests for ever and ever." This is the message of Revelation 4. He tells us exactly how to reign. You have in the same chapter v 5 "And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunders and voices, and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God." This phrase "seven Spirits" appears four times in the Book of Revelation. Rev. 1:4, "and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne," Rev. 3:1: "These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God". Rev. 4:5, we have already seen, and now Rev. 5:6: "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." Thus four times we read of the seven Spirits. That means you can divide the work of the Holy Spirit into four groups of seven each. In other words we have the twenty-eightfold meaning of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Firstly, seven names given to the Holy Ghost in the Bible. Secondly the sevenfold working of the Holy Ghost inside a believer which goes on very quietly and silently like the roots of a tree in the ground, which you cannot see from outside. Then the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit which can be seen by other people outwardly, and fourthly the work of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of the Lord Himself. It is by these that we are prepared to share His throne.

May the Lord create in us a longing to be with Him upon His throne



3. THE SEVEN NAMES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I would lovingly and strongly advise you to read this Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ again and again. You will find therein a very helpful message for the end days. Even though you cannot understand many of the details do not worry about that. Read it through verse by verse, slowly and prayerfully upon your knees, and all the hidden mysteries will become clear to you in God's own time.

In the first chapter of Revelation and verse 4, we read, "JOHN to the seven churches which are in Asia. Grace be unto you, and peace from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne." This blessing is given to us as we begin this study of the seven names of the Holy Spirit from Rev. 1:4; 3:1, 4:1-5; 5:5-6. Note how in these four passages from God's Word, we have this fragment or phrase, "the seven Spirits."

The number seven is also repeated a number of times in the same book. The message of the Lord Jesus Christ was to the seven churches; He speaks about the seven angels; there is a book with seven seals; the last seven plagues and so on. The number seven in the Bible speaks of perfection. Just as twelve for foundation and divine order, ten for test, eight for resurrection, six for man, five for grace, four for Gospel, three for Trinity and two for oneness, so number seven speaks of perfection. When Christ speaks of His seven Spirits He means the complete and perfect work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. By this work we can be brought with our Lord Jesus Christ upon His throne, to which our attention is drawn at the very beginning of this Book of Revelation.

In chapter 14 we read, "JOHN, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come, and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne." In the same chapter, in verse 6, we are told "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." If we are to be kings with the Lord Jesus Christ, we must also have a throne. You cannot be a king without a throne. You cannot be a king without a kingdom, dominion, power and authority. Thus the Holy Spirit brings our attention to the heavenly, holy and high calling of our loving and mighty God, and His purpose of bringing us upon His throne. He wants us to reign with Him, otherwise there is no meaning in saying that we are kings and priests. Perhaps some of us wonder how we can ever rise to such heights, though we can believe easily enough that God is a God of mercy, and can surely forgive our sins. Ask anyone who believes in God and they will straightway agree with you: "Yes, I believe He is a God of mercy: He can forgive sins." But tell a person that "Not only does God want to forgive us our sins, but He also wants us to be with Him upon His throne," and they find it hard to understand. May be a few persons like Paul the Apostle, or Daniel the prophet, or Moses the Lawgiver can be on the throne, but not men like you and me. They can never dream of occupying such a high position in the Lord Jesus Christ. But these are not my words but His words. Verses 5 and 6 say, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests." Why did He love us? His desire is so great and wonderful, so marvellous and abundant that He wants us to be kings, to reign with Him. The same thought is found in Rev. 20:4 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them

that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” “Reigned?” Yes, every believer can be both a king and a priest with the Lord Jesus Christ. Whenever you find any doubt coming into your mind as to how a man like me, so weak, so limited and frail can ever rise so high the answer is “the seven Spirits.” When the angel appeared to Mary and told her that she was going to have a Son, she said to him “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34). The answer is “The Holy Ghost.” “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee” (v.35)

We are to be like Mary. God says in effect. “Do you know the meaning of the seven Spirits? Then let them work in you freely and you will be raised to My throne.” They are there, that we may be prepared adequately to rise higher and higher till we reach the heavenly throne and are there for ever as kings and co-workers and apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. The seven Spirits speak of the complete Spirit. In Zechariah 4:1-6 the same message is given to the prophet Zechariah. “AND the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps were on it, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof. And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not

what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." That was the message the Lord was conveying through Zechariah to Zerubbabel. At that time they had a very hard task before them.

The city of Jerusalem was burnt down completely according to the prophecies made by Jeremiah in chapter 25. God prophesied that after 70 years of captivity they will come back to Jerusalem. But when they returned they found that the whole city was in ruins and all the buildings were burnt down. The outer wall of Jerusalem was also fallen down. They were wondering why God had said that after 70 years of captivity the whole city would be rebuilt and that the wonderful temple which had been burnt down completely, also would be rebuilt. They had no money. They were captives. They were few in number. Yet God was saying to Zechariah, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit. I have said it, and I will do it; the whole city will again be built, the walls, and the temple also." And so it came to pass. Things that looked impossible became possible. How? The Lord said, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit." That is the message of the seven Spirits.

The same message we find in the tabernacle through the golden candlesticks and the seven lamps. "And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof, and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it" (Exodus 25:37). That was the plan of the golden candlesticks in the tabernacle. When we understand that the seven lamps of fire in Zechariah 4 refer to the seven Spirits of God, we understand that unless we are prepared for the Holy Spirit to possess us

completely and to fill us with more fire and lead us step by step, we cannot know the meaning of God's throne. When we are willing to be led by the Spirit completely, then by that Spirit, He says, we can rise above all things and come to His throne.

Now why is it that we find that phrase the "seven Spirits" coming four times- in chapter 1:4, 3:1, 4:5; and 5:6? The reason is that we can divide the work of the Holy Spirit into four parts as I said earlier. Firstly, there are seven names given in the Bible to the Holy Spirit. Secondly, there is the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit, which goes on very quietly in the believer. Thirdly, there is the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit that can be seen outwardly by other people. Fourthly, there is the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. His work is thus divided into four groups of seven each.

I find that this subject is much misunderstood in many parts of the world. Many people have wrong conceptions about the Holy Spirit. His work in no way depends on us, He does it by fulfilling the divine law. If God forgives my sins, He still has to fulfil His divine law. Before He can forgive me, God must punish sin, and that is why the Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself my punishment. That divine law cannot be changed. God is just, and God's Word says: "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Eze 18:4). How can He change His law? The law is there. Every sin that I commit, either by thought or by word or by deed deserves the same punishment of death, and to fulfil that divine law the Lord Jesus Christ became a man. What I could not do, being so weak in the flesh, my Lord came to the world to do for me. And so whatever God does, He always does it by fulfilling His divine

laws. When He sends rain it is by the laws of nature. Sunshine must fall upon the water, the water becomes clouds which have to travel long distances and go through many changes. At last the rain falls. Thus we see everything happening after certain laws are fulfilled. The Holy Ghost will not come by shouting and screaming and rolling on the ground. There is a divine law here and this great secret is given to us. How does the Holy Spirit come into us? How does He work in us? His coming into us and His work in us are deep, complete, full and free. The purpose is that we may share His throne.

The first name given in the Bible to the Holy Spirit is "The Spirit of holiness." "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). That is the first name I find the Spirit of Holiness, or the Holy Spirit. He is given that name that, we may understand the meaning of God's holiness and may also become holy, as God is holy. That is God's standard for you and me. In 1 Peter 1:16 God says through His servant, "Be ye holy; for I am holy." We have to be holy like Himself, not like Peter or John, or Paul, or Daniel, or Sarah or Moses. God says, "Be holy as I am holy." We have before us such a high standard as the holiness of God. Again in Hebrews (12:10) we read, "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." His holiness; that is God's standard and none can ever attain to such a high standard by any effort of man. It is not attained by will power, knowledge, fasting, tears or by any other means. The Holy Spirit has to come into me and work deeply, freely, fully and completely to make me as holy as He is holy. My part is to let Him possess me, saying: "Lord, my hands are at Thy service, my feet are at Thy disposal, all my limbs

will obey Thee without looking to men." We have to be brought into His possession so that the Holy Spirit can take us fully for it is not we who take Him.

Some people think that by living in some quiet place, they will become more holy. That is why in the early days many became monks and nuns, but this was a false conception. By living in some far-out place without seeing anyone, man does not become more holy. There was a man who lived in a mountain cave for twelve years. He sincerely thought that by not seeing any man or woman, and by not eating meat or mutton, he would become more holy. There he was for twelve years in the cave living upon water and leaves and wild fruits. Someone asked him, "Mr. X, have you become more holy?" He said, "I have committed far more fornications here, than I ever did in the world outside." Our thoughts will never leave us. It is the Holy Spirit Who has to make me holy, not myself, and it is for this reason He is called the Spirit of Holiness. Unless we are prepared to become holy, God will not work in us.

Many people want the Holy Spirit for power, thinking that by having more power they will be admired more. Men will say "Look, what a wonderful man, what a fine Christian! When he prays something always happens". Men seek after power, and manifestations, and signs and wonders and what not, but this is not God's order. His first demand is holiness and unless we have that longing to be holy as God is holy, we shall never find the Holy Spirit coming into us freely, and that is why we find many people who crave to have the fulness of the Holy Spirit, being deceived by money. I will give you an example. I have met many people coming to India from America and other countries to have a healing campaign. They

have very large posters advertising: "Come! Come and be healed by So and So." Then when the people come, they put out a box and request the people to give as much as they can! What a mockery! They ask the people to come and be healed by prayer, and then begin begging with both hands: "Please give liberal y! Please give liberally! Don't forget the box." It is indeed a mockery. If God can heal by prayer, why cannot He give money by prayer? He is the same God, but men are so blind spiritually, that they will even tell lies to get more money. God is holy so we must be holy, and then we shall see the true power of the Holy Spirit.

In Hebrews 9:14 we read: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" That is **the second name** we see in the Bible; the Eternal Spirit. God has given us the Holy Spirit to teach us about eternal things. We, as human beings, are much more concerned about passing things. We study history, geography, philosophy, botany, zoology, and so many other subjects. We have a longing and desire to learn all we can of these subjects. They will pass away, but how about the things of eternity? These things that we learn on earth will pass away. In Matthew 24:35 we read, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." As we grow old, often our memory fails. We may have gained high degrees in these subjects with very high marks, but after a few years the memory of it all disappears. But what we receive from God will never pass away; it will last forever, and that is why we require the Holy Spirit so as to understand the things of eternity, and the meaning of the heavenly mystery.

For example, when the Lord Jesus Christ began to

speak about heavenly things in John 3:4, Nicodemus said to Him "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Our Lord was talking about eternal things, but the poor man could not understand them. Nicodemus was one of the seventy members of the Jewish Sanhedrin. In those days the Sanhedrin governed the whole nation of the Jews, and though Nicodemus was one of those leading men, he could not understand a simple truth regarding heavenly things. When the Lord said to him so lovingly, "Now Nicodemus, if you want to be with Me in My kingdom, you must be born again," he thought the Lord was talking about physical birth. "How can this be? How can this be?" he asked. Thus to understand eternal things we require the Holy Spirit

Similarly in John 6:51, 52, 55, and 57, the Lord says: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? For my flesh is meat indeed. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." Our Lord repeated the same message eight times. From verses 51 to 58 is the same thought. "Why are you here? Are you not after the fish and loaves only? You can eat that today and be hungry tomorrow. Come to me, and I will give you something better. Eat meat that will help you to live for ever." He was saying it so lovingly and kindly, but the disciples got angry and went away. "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (John 6:66). They had no understanding of the things of eternity. They knew full well that the Lord was a Man of

authority, and no ordinary man. "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matt. 7:29). "Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46). And even though our Lord was speaking with authority and told them lovingly how they could live forever with Him, and how their hunger and thirst could be satisfied for ever, they got angry and went away

Now when you go to a college and cannot understand a certain theorem, what will you do? Will you go home? Will you say to the professor "I am not going to stay here, I am going home". You would rather say, "Sir, I can't understand, will you please explain more simply this theorem?" But the people in this passage got angry and went away and came no more after Him, because they had no understanding of the things of eternity

The Holy Spirit is given to us to give us hunger, thirst, appreciation, and understanding of the things of eternity. 1 Cor. 2:12-14 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God : for they are foolishness unto him : neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The things of eternity, the things of God, and the things of heaven cannot be understood by human wisdom.

You may be a Ph.D., or a D.D., or you may have passed an examination in a Bible College, but that is no proof that you have a true understanding of the Scriptures. Unless you are

born again, unless you receive the Holy Spirit, you will never know the full meaning of the heavenly mysteries. But if we have received the Holy Spirit we have a greater hunger for the things of eternity and the Holy Spirit can speak to us freely. We have to say by simple child-like faith: "Lord, teach me the meaning of eternal, divine, heavenly truths: teach me something more about life after death; teach me something more about Thy heavenly kingdom, Thy divine love, Thy divine discipline." And He will teach us, because He is the Eternal Spirit.

Now let us look at the **third name**. In John 14:16 we read: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." Verse 18, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." That is the third name given to the Holy Spirit - the **Comforter**. Now here the thought is, when the Lord Jesus Christ told them in Matt. 16:21 "I will suffer and be killed," they were very sad, and they said "Lord for Your sake we left our families, and our business and followed You three years. Lord, we have been going after You. Now You are telling us You are going away. What about us? Will You leave us like orphans?" But the Lord said: "I will not leave you comfortless" (orphans - margin) in John 14:18. He said, "I will give you a Comforter, One who will help you." He is called the Comforter, that the love of God may be fully enjoyed by us. First of all, we see in Romans 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Divine love can only come into us by the Holy Spirit. It is a crystal love, an everlasting love, an unchanging love. "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I

drawn thee' (Jer 31:3). His lovingkindness comes with an everlasting love, and because God's love is eternal and spiritual, it can only be brought into us by the Holy Spirit. He is called the Comforter, that we may enjoy His divine love fully, completely and abundantly.

Also we find His love has four dimensions. Ephesians 3:18-19 says "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge." Divine love is so great, how can I ever measure it? Its length and breadth, and depth, and height can never be measured; so I need the Holy Spirit, that this divine immeasurable love may come into me in abundance, in fulness, and completely and continually.

Again, the love of God has seven aspects. In the Scripture I come to number seven again and again, and here we have a sevenfold picture of the divine love of God.

First of all He loves me as my Saviour, "... the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal.2:20). That is the first aspect of divine love; the Lord Jesus Christ loves me as my Saviour. If you want to experience divine love you have got to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ loved you and died in your stead. He loved me and gave Himself for me. Do not try to confuse mercy with love. For example, a poor man may ask some money from you, you feel sorry for him, and out of mercy and kindness you give some money to him. You do not say, "You are my son or daughter." Only those who are your own children can demand the love of father or mother from you and no one else. That is how divine

love begins. I must acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. He came into the world for me. When John the Baptist first saw the Lord Jesus Christ after His baptism he said in John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God." He didn't say "Behold the Messiah!" or "Behold Jesus of Nazareth!" He said "Behold the Lamb of God!" No one else has come into the world to take away the sins of the world, except the Lord Jesus Christ Who came as a Lamb. Under the law a priest had to take a lamb without blemish and sacrifice it for the sins of the people. That was to remind men of the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, which was to come. God's love always begins when we receive Him as our Saviour. The love of the Saviour is the first aspect of divine love.

Secondly, He loves as a Father. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness" (Hebrews 12:6, 10). That is the second aspect of divine love. The Lord Jesus loves us as a Saviour, to begin with, and then as a Father. That is why He must punish us, rebuke us, and chastise us so as to bring us to His standards. Why do you chastise your children? When they misbehave, you chastise them that they may rise to your standards. You say "You are my son, you are my child, you must behave properly, study hard and acquire high marks." God is saying: "You are My children, and I want you to rise to My standards, that you may be with Me in My kingdom." That is why God must punish us, chastise us and scourge us.

Thirdly, Isaiah 66:13 tells us "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem." That is the third aspect of divine

love. The Lord Jesus Christ loves us like a mother. Father knows how to beat, mother knows how to cook. What mother can do, father cannot do. A young man was very sick in a hospital and his mother came to see him. He was lying there as though he was unconscious, but when his mother held his hand, he said, "Mother, have you come?" He knew by the touch that it was his mother's hand and not the nurse's. God is saying: "I will punish you, but I will also comfort you. I will do both." Whenever we feel sad, lonely, rejected and discouraged, there comes the warmth of God's love saying, "My son, I am with you. Why are you so sad? I will never leave you, I will never forsake you, cheer up, don't be so sad." Like a mother He comforts us. Like a father He chastises us.

Fourthly, in John 15:15 we read: "Henceforth I call you not servants, for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." That is the fourth characteristic of divine love: He loves me like a friend. God called Abraham His "friend" in three places: Isaiah 41:8; 2 Chron. 20:7 and James 2:23. The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham the thing which I do?" (Gen. 18:17)? God is saying, "Abraham is My friend, I cannot keep these secrets from him; I must tell him so." Before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He told Abraham the secrets of His heart. He told him how He was going to destroy those wicked cities.

When you become God's friend, He will reveal to you many secrets. You will see as you go upon your knees with your Bible, day by day, week by week, many heavenly mysteries that are hidden from the wise and prudent being, revealed to you.

God is my Friend. He loved me in the beginning as my Saviour. As a Father He punishes me and rebukes me, as a mother He has comforted me, as a Friend He reveals to me heavenly mysteries, which are hidden from the wise and learned men. I can go to Him at any time, anywhere and tell Him all my difficulties. There is no shame, nor fear when I say to Him "Lord, I have sinned, please forgive me. I have failed Thee, please forgive me. Lord Jesus, please have mercy upon me. I don't want to grieve Thee." I dare not hide anything from Him. I can tell Him anything freely, and He answers, "Yes, My son, I also have something to tell you". In Isaiah 50:4 we read: "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary : he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." Yes, He gives you a message of comfort for someone. He will tell you "Now, My son, there is someone there feeling very sad, you go there and talk to him."

I remember some time ago God spoke to me that a certain person was in trouble. She had need of something, and God told me to go and give her Rs. 5. I answered, "Lord, I have no money. If this is Your purpose, You provide the money also." As I went outside I saw a brand new note lying by the door. I picked it up and went to deliver it to the person in trouble. I said "Forgive me, but the Lord spoke to me, and this is for you." She began to weep. She said, "You know, last night I saw a dream and in that dream I saw my husband and he said to me, 'Bakht Singh will come and give you five rupees.' It is wonderful to think that morning by morning the Lord speaks to us. He tells me, 'Go to So and So; he is My child, discouraged and in difficulty. Give My message to him.'" So I go straightway. Thus day after day heavenly mysteries

are revealed. I also go to Him and say, "Lord, I am very sorry, I have done something wrong; I said something that hurt someone, please forgive me." His forgiveness is immediate. He is my Friend.

In Matthew 12:48-50 we find the **fifth** characteristic of divine love. "But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Yes, He loves me as a brother, He loves me as a sister. The more I do God's will, the more I enjoy that divine love like a brother, that fellowship as an equal member. In the family some are very clever, some are very stupid. Yet because it is the same family, we love each other; we share our food, yes, we share everything together. Thus I know the Lord is my brother also. He is there to share my burdens, and on my part I must give Him more affection. We all need brothers in the family; it is a happy family indeed when there are brothers and sisters, who can share all their joys and sorrows. Christ is my Brother.

Sixthly, in Revelation 1:5 we read these words: "Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us." He loves me as a **King**. Now why do you want a king? You need a king for safety, for protection and for war. The king's army protects us, and allows us to live in peace. The Lord Jesus Christ is my heavenly King to protect me from all the attacks of the unseen powers. As we see in Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers

of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." There are many wicked unseen powers constantly trying to do us some harm and damage. The Lord Jesus Christ is our heavenly King, and unknown to us is fighting on our behalf to protect us from the attacks of evil powers. When we say again and again "Lord Jesus, by faith we bring ourselves under the blood," they are defeated. We do not go to the police or military for protection for we have protection in the heavenly King. At the same time, because of His reign and wisdom I can grow spiritually. Just as earthly kings and government help us to live in prosperity and develop the country, in the same way the Lord Jesus Christ is our heavenly King, and enables us to grow in grace and knowledge.

Finally, He loves us as a heavenly Bridegroom. Rev. 19:7 says, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." Also Rev. 21:2, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." He loves us as a heavenly Bridegroom so as to make us one with Him. I have seen how after marriage, many people become discontented. Suppose you live in peace and harmony for thirty-five years, have your photo taken, and compare it with the photo taken on your marriage day, you will be surprised to see the difference. When a couple has lived in oneness for thirty-five years, they look almost like brother and sister. I have seen many, many photos. Those who are always fighting, will not have the same resemblance. The Lord is my Bridegroom to make me like Himself, to share with me His glory, His beauty, excellency, power and majesty. This is divine love. He loves me first as a Saviour, second, as a Father to rebuke and

chasten; third, as a mother to comfort; fourth, as a friend to share all His secrets; fifth, as a brother to be my companion, and my partner in my afflictions, sorrows and burdens, sixth, as my heavenly king for protection, safety and prosperity, and seventh as a bridegroom to make me like Himself, to share with me His glory and beauty, and to live with me as one person.

The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter, that He may bring into us the sevenfold divine love in its full measure. In your experience of the Holy Spirit if you find no love, something is wrong with your experience. Some people talk about fullness, but are hard-hearted. They say hurtful things; they do many shameful things. There is no love, there is no sympathy, no understanding, no kindness, no gentleness; there is no divine love. The Holy Ghost is our Comforter that He may bring into us day by day this sevenfold divine love in its fullness like a river.

Now the **fourth name** of the Holy Spirit is given in John 16:13. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." The Spirit of truth will teach us day by day things to come, and at the same time give us a clear understanding of the whole plan of salvation, for by the Holy Spirit we know clearly how we become just and righteous before God; how all our sins are forgiven, and how the Lord Himself is our sanctification and righteousness. Similarly He says: "He will show you things to come." We shall know inwardly before hand that something is going to happen. One day a man came to me. He said he wanted to go away to his village. I said, "I'll pray to the Lord and find God's

will " I prayed, "Lord, this man wants to go will You kindly show Your will." So I told him "we have prayed, but I do not have peace Will you kindly postpone your departure?" He said, "I have packed my things, I fee I must go." So we prayed again, a second time, a third time, a fourth time, but the same answer. I said to him, "There is something wrong somewhere, please don't go today " Half heartedly he stayed behind, but that very train by which he wanted to go met with an accident, a head-on collision with a goods train and many hundreds died Then he came to me and said, "Thank you so much for holding me back". In the beginning he was so sorry that I did not have the guidance, but the Holy Spirit was telling me beforehand "Be very careful." Another time we were climbing a mountain. I was going in front and someone was behind me, when suddenly my legs would not go down to the ground. I looked down and there was a cobra underneath. The Lord saved us there God promised that He, the Holy Spirit, will warn us beforehand saying "Be very careful, do not go that side be very careful!" That is how we have been saved from many things He is the Spirit of truth, to show us clearly the way of salvation and the fuller meaning of God's love, and at the same time to save us from all coming dangers

The **fifth** name is found in Galatians 4:6. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth **the Spirit of his Son** into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Verse 7 also: "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ " The Spirit of God's Son gives us liberty and boldness to call upon God at any time There is no fear, even though the Father may sometimes rebuke us, for we have boldness to go direct to God's throne We know whatever He may do to chastise us, His love never changes God may rebuke us but His love is still there, so He says

"You are given the Spirit of sons." Then you can call upon God for all your needs. God says in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Again Psalm 81:10 says: "I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." He is my heavenly Father, and has given to me the Spirit of His Son that I may call upon Him for all my needs, all my burdens, all my problems. John 16:24 says: "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Ask from Him, there is no need to beg, no need to borrow. Romans 13:8 commands: "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." Now many believers borrow money to buy furniture. They buy a house by instalments, and a radio, carpet, wedding suit, piano, all by instalments; all on borrowed money! This is against the Scriptures. Pay what you owe. When you are in need call upon the Lord and He will surely give you, and be content with what He gives. Do not be covetous or greedy, for He loves you, and whatever is good for you, He will give you. Psalm 84:11: "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory. no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." No good thing! Again in Psalm 34:10, "The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing." That psalm was written by David when he and his four hundred men were living in a cave. At that time they had no money. 1 Samuel 22:1-2 shows their condition. "David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he

became a captain over them and there were with him about four hundred men.” That was the best Bible College anyone could go to. There was no money, yet if anyone was in trouble or in debt, he went to David, and he became their captain. Further, they were all hiding themselves from Saul. It was at that time he wrote Psalm 34:10: “The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.” I can imagine those men seeing lions roaring down in the valley because they had no food, but for David and his men adequate food was provided by the Lord. If something happened to keep them in the cave, or they could not go to the markets to buy any food, because they had no money, God kept on providing food, day by day to all those four hundred men in the cave. So David could say: “The lions suffer hunger, I see them every day, but we shall never want any good thing.” Trust in God and He will surely supply your need. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of the Son, and we are God’s children; we belong to Him and he must supply our needs.

The **sixth** name of the Holy Spirit is found in 2 Timothy 1:7: “For God hath not given us the **spirit of fear**, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” That is the sixth name: the **Spirit of power, and love and a sound mind**. These three go together, so do not separate them. Some want power but not love. They do not want both but both must go together. The Spirit of power, love and a sound mind will first of all take away all our fears; fear of the past, of the future, and of the present. Then the same Spirit will give us power over sin and temptation, and a sound mind to understand the mind of God, to know God’s wisdom and plan, and His perfect will. Our greatest need is to find God’s will. Many people boast how they are full of the Holy Spirit. I ask them: “Please

tell me how do you find God's will.' Then they start saying, "I don't know." They talk about their experience for a long time, but ask them a simple question: "Can you prove to me how and when and where you found God's will and what is the evidence of it," they cannot answer it. God gives you a sound mind to understand His ways and working, plans, and perfect will.

The seventh name is given in 1 John 2,27: "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." The seventh name is **the Anointing**. Let us read verse 26: "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you." We know in the end days there will be many false prophets to deceive us. "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matt. 24:5) In the same way 2 Cor. 11,13-15: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." In the end days there will be many false prophets, but we are given the anointing of the Holy Spirit by which we are protected from these false prophets. That is my experience. After my conversion in Winnipeg, Canada, I was the only Sikh Christian staying in the Y.M.C.A. At that time, many people came to see me everyday. They would be very kind to me and take me home, but my spirit told me: "Do not trust them; there is something wrong." And that is how God saved me from many wrong teachings. They had so many good books and so many nice gestures, but I would

feel there was something wrong there and that is how all these years God has saved me from wrong teachings. If you allow the Holy Ghost to possess you, He will save you from all these wrong teachers, because some are so clever, you will never know of yourselves, what they teach and what they practise. But thank God for the Spirit which is given for our safety and our protection

So we have the seven names of the Holy Spirit. Let me repeat them 1. The Spirit of Holiness that we may understand how to attain God's holiness. 2. The Eternal Spirit to give us hunger and thirst for, appreciation and understanding of the things of eternity. 3. The Comforter, that God's perfect, abundant, sevenfold love may be brought into me fully, the love of the Saviour, love of a father, a mother a friend, a brother, a heavenly King, and the heavenly Bridegroom. 4. He is called the Spirit of truth to show me all things and bring me into the depths of His salvation, and warn me beforehand of coming dangers or present evil. 5. He is called the Spirit of the Son to give me boldness and liberty to go unto Him for all my need, whatever it may be. Open your mouth wide and He will fill it. He is there always to help. 6. Similarly, He is called the Spirit of power and love and a sound mind to take away all our fears and doubts and anxieties, and at the same time to keep us in God's perfect heavenly plan. 7. Finally, He is called the Spirit of Anointing to save us from the wrong teachings of false prophets



4. THE SEVENFOLD INWARD WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have already mentioned that in the Book of Revelation, the phrase "seven Spirits" is repeated several times: Rev. 1:4 3:1 4:5; Rev. 5:6. From these references we understand the meaning of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives, by which God wants to bring us upon His throne. The whole message of the Book of Revelation can be summed up in one verse where God says: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son" -Rev. 21:7. All things of the new creation. The great and eternal purpose of our loving God in saving us is that we may inherit all things of the new creation. It is very hard to understand on this earth what our inheritance really is, but we accept it as God's Word and believe it without any question or doubt.

In the beginning of the Book of Revelation our attention is drawn to the throne. At that time the apostle John was a prisoner on the island of Patmos. It is a very small island about sixty miles from Ephesus. We all know how the Gospel was brought to Ephesus first of all by Apollos, then Paul went there later on Timothy; and finally the apostle John laboured in that place. The Ephesian believers had the privilege of being deeply taught in the things of God and salvation, by these great servants of God. The time came, however, when there was great persecution against all the believers. Many were scattered and imprisoned and even killed. Many others lost their first love, and yet others were deceived by the enemy by wrong teaching. This was the condition in Ephesus at the time when the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to John the apostle on the isle of Patmos, and gave him the message we have in

the Book of Revelation. Naturally there were all kinds of questions in the mind of the apostle as to what was going to be the future of the believers. It is quite natural for us to wonder what will happen next, when we see how the enemy slips in among the believers, when we find him very active around us, and the believers are being scattered and very few remaining true. The Lord Jesus answered all the questions that were in the mind of the apostle at that time, how He would defeat the enemy, and one day bring all of us to a very high position upon His throne, as He has promised.

In chapters 1 and 3 we find the word "throne", and again in chapters 4 and 5 the same message - the throne. Note particularly Rev. 3:21. Thus the clear purpose of God is revealed that our Lord wants us to be upon His throne. And do not think that the message is meant only for the apostles and other leaders of God's people. The message is so simple, "to him that overcometh", that is, any believer, if he is prepared to live an overcoming life. By the help of God and by His grace and strength you will also claim your share upon the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord is saying so, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Naturally we question now, we weak human beings, can ever rise so high as to come upon God's throne, but by faith we can accept it easily for God is so merciful, and so gracious that He wants to forgive our sins, and that is why He has made a way of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Even those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ will tell you that they believe that He is a merciful God and Creator, and that He will forgive sins when we humble ourselves and repent. Even before my conversion I knew that God was merciful. But this, His throne, is far too high for our

human wisdom. It becomes simple to us however, when we know that the honour is "to him that overcometh." And further that those who overcome will inherit all things (Rev. 21:7). We are told how to overcome and for this reason our attention is being drawn in the beginning of this Book of Revelation to the seven Spirits.

We have already seen in Zechariah 14, that God's people at that time had a very hard task before them. The city of Jerusalem had been completely burned in the days of king Nebuchadnezzar including the city walls, the houses, and even the temple. But according to the prophecy made by Jeremiah in chapter 25 the people were to return to Jerusalem after seventy years and the whole city would be rebuilt including the walls and the temple. Naturally they wondered how this could be. For the people were few in number, poor, without money, captives and slaves, their houses burned down, and yet God's Word was true.

God's Word came to Zechariah, "Not by might, not by power," He was saying, "but by My Spirit, not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit." God was saying, "It is by My Spirit that you will see all these prophecies made by Jeremiah and other prophets fulfilled".

The same problem also arises when we say in our mind: "How can men like me rise so high as to sit upon God's throne?" The answer is the "seven Spirits". The number seven speaks of perfection and completion, seven churches, seven angels, seven lamps of fire, a book with seven seals, seven stars, the number seven comes again and again. We can divide the work of the Holy Spirit into four groups of seven each. If we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us deeply, fully and freely,

we are qualified automatically to sit on the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not by human faculties, not by our cleverness, but by the Holy Spirit working in us daily, deeply, freely and fully. Firstly, as we have seen already, there are seven names of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Secondly, the work of the Holy Spirit is going on inside us very quietly, like the roots of a tree underground spreading over a large area, going down deeply, but playing a very big and important part. These roots are often tiny, like threads, but they go on spreading and gathering the food necessary for the whole tree, the trunk, the leaves and the flowers. And that quiet hidden work cannot be seen by men outside. Similarly, the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit is going on inside us very quietly. We know it, though others do not always see it. Thirdly, there is a work of the Holy Spirit that can be seen by our neighbours, friends, enemies and relations. So you can divide the work of the Holy Ghost into a sevenfold unseen work inside, and a sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit that can be seen by others. Fourthly, the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit which is accomplished in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you divide this work into these four groups you have the secret of the fullness of the Holy Spirit for all human beings whoever they may be.

We have studied the seven names given in the Bible to the Holy Spirit. We will now see in detail the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit which goes on in us so very quietly, by which work we are being prepared by our loving Saviour for our position with Him upon His throne. That work is inside, and you cannot see it. When the Lord Jesus comes back the second time and we see Him face to face, we shall know fully how that work has been going on.

Let us look, first of all at John 3:6 and Titus 3:5. The

work of regeneration is the first inward work of the Holy Spirit. By it we are made new in our spirit. In other words we are born again. "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24). If we want to know and hear God, if we want to touch Him and feel Him, it is only in our spirit that we can know Him. God gave me eyes to see, ears to hear, a mouth with which to speak and to eat, hands and fingers to feel, lungs for air, intestines for food. Similarly, He gave me a spirit for spiritual things. God tells us so clearly in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." God can be seen but not by natural sight. Similarly, in Isaiah 30:21, "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it." We can hear God's voice, though not often with our natural ears.

In Psalms 16:11 we read "... in thy presence is fulness of joy." Yes, we can feel God's presence, not in the body, but inwardly and spiritually. Unless we are inwardly renewed by the Holy Spirit in our spirit we cannot see God, touch God, know God, or feel God. And because people do not know how to be born again they are deceived. To know the full meaning of the new birth we must first know what our human personality is. 1 Thess. 5:23 speaks of the "whole spirit, and soul, and body." In Gen. 2:7 God first made a body of dust, and it was by His own breath, that the human spirit entered that body, and man became a living soul. Every human being is composed of three parts - we have a body, a soul and a spirit. When God comes into me or into you He can only come in through the spirit. He does not come in through bones, or muscles, or brain. I cannot touch Him, hear Him or feel Him. I am conscious of His life coming into me, and He answers my call. How is this? It is by His Spirit. Why is it that we cannot see Him clearly even in the spirit? Because of sin. God told Adam that if he sinned against Him he would die. Because

of sin, man has undergone a threefold downward change. He now has a dead spirit, for death has entered into his spirit. If I want to commit a sin of any kind, I must kill my conscience. If my mouth tells lies my conscience pricks me, saying: "Now don't tell lies", "Don't be angry", "Don't hate so-and-so." But I say: "You keep quiet! You keep quiet!" In other words I am killing my conscience. Before I commit any sin, whether it be hatred, enmity, jealousy, greed, impurity, or hypocrisy, I must kill my conscience. In other words we bring death into our spirit because conscience is a part of the spirit.

As sinners we have a threefold condition: a dead spirit, a darkened soul and a defiled body; we are dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). As sinners we have brought death into our spirit, our souls are darkened and blinded (2 Cor. 4:4), and our body is defiled (1 Cor. 3:16, 17). This is the threefold condition of every sinner before God, and because of this we cannot touch God, know Him or feel Him. God is a Spirit, so unless a new life and spirit come into my spirit I cannot know Him, and for that purpose we have to be renewed or regenerated by the Holy Spirit. When I humble myself and confess my sins the Spirit of God comes into my spirit and makes me a new person.

Again we undergo a threefold change by receiving into us the Holy Spirit. Our dead spirit becomes a quickened spirit, our darkened soul becomes an enlightened soul, and our defiled body becomes a cleansed body. We better know what is body, what is soul and what is spirit. There are three components in the body. Muscles, bones and blood are the three main parts of the human body. Similarly, there are three components in the soul, **intellect** to think, **emotion** to love your children and parents; and if you are older your

companions, and thirdly **willpower**, you can say yes or can say no. God will not force you. You can refuse to see, to eat, and to walk. Every human being is given willpower. Intellect, emotion and willpower make the human soul. Similarly, there are three components in the spirit. Firstly, the **conscience**, that inward faculty which tells us this is right, this is wrong. Secondly, **worship**, longing to know the Unseen. Who is my Creator? Where is He? How can I find Him? Where can I find Him? That desire comes to all of us at different times. Some want to find God in nature, some in buildings, temples, some want to find Him by rituals and ceremonies. God cannot be found that way, but only by the spirit. The third component of the spirit is **instinct or intuition**. Suddenly a thought comes, "Let me go and see my friends", "Let me go for a walk", "Let me write to someone". That comes by instinct or intuition. Because we are under the threefold bondage of sin, death, and deterioration, unless we receive into our spirits the life of God we can never see God, touch Him or feel Him. That is the first work of the Holy Spirit. To renew me completely that I may receive into me the Holy Spirit.

In John 3:6 the first "S" is a capital, the Holy Spirit, and the second 's' is a small one, the human spirit. God is Spirit and only my spirit can be renewed, my body cannot be renewed, the body shall remain body. We cannot have a steel body after we are born again, we remain as we are. We have to eat, we have to work, we get tired and weary, we remain ordinary human beings. This body will never become steel. But in my spirit I can be renewed, and become a new person with new faculties, but it is only possible when, first of all, I am purified inwardly. In Hebrews 9:14 we read, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience

from dead works to serve the living God” Before the Holy Spirit can come into our spirit all the guilty stains caused by sinful thoughts, words and deeds must be washed and taken away. God has put a tape recorder in our hearts and every word we speak, every single thought we think, and every thing we do is being recorded quietly in the conscience. That is God’s tape-recorder. That is why on their death-beds, men are often troubled by a guilty conscience. I have seen people in terror. I have read of men like Voltaire, the famous agnostic of France, who used to make fun of God and ridicule Him in the many books he wrote against Him. He gave many lectures against God but on his death bed he trembled in terror, and cried out in fear. So terrible was his fear that no nurse could nurse him for more than one night. This was because he was being troubled by a guilty conscience. I have seen many people on their death-beds, who are not ready to die. “Please do something, do something” they plead. Some give charity, so that mercy may be granted to them. Others, like the heathen, want ceremonies because of the fear of death. In fact every human being who does not know God is troubled by his guilty conscience on his death bed and there is no peace on his face, only fear and terror and darkness. But on the face of a believer there is a perfectly peaceful expression like that of a sleeping child.

God says in Jeremiah 17:1, “The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond, it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars.” The deep mark is there, so before the Holy Spirit can renew my spirit, my guilty conscience has to be purged, cleansed, washed, and purified completely of all the guilty stains only carved by my thoughts, words and deeds. That is only possible by my Lord, by His precious Blood.

Are you troubled by guilty conscience? Are you afraid to come near God? Are you unhappy to come into God's presence? That is why many people do not like to attend meetings, for in the presence of God their sins are uncovered. They will go to a football match for hours together, or to a concert, but they cannot bear to come to a meeting because God's Word uncovers their sins. "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved" (John 3:20). I remember many years ago, in India, a mother came to me and said, "Will you please come to our house for a visit?" I went and their young daughter was there, who never came to the meetings. I said: "Sister, why do you not come for the meetings?" She said, "I am very busy, I have to study very hard and I am not yet through." I said, "You are one of those referred to in John 3:20". She said, "What is that?" "Read the Bible for yourself", I told her. So she brought the Bible and read it very boldly, then she read it a second time and a third time. And at last she got very angry, and said to her mother: "Why did you tell him about me?" I said, "She never said a word to me about you. I tell you from God's Word, that you do not come to the meeting, because you are afraid that God's Word may uncover your sins." After two days I got a letter: "Brother, you were quite right! But now I have repented. Thank God."

Indeed many people are afraid to come to the meetings, lest the Holy Spirit, by God's Word, uncover their sins. Don't be afraid! When God uncovers sins He uncovers them to forgive us, not to shame us. But when men uncover our sins they do so to humiliate us. That is man's nature. God is a God of love. First of all, He has to cleanse me inside; He must purge my conscience because conscience is a part of my spirit. When I am inwardly cleansed and purged by God in the blood

of Christ, then the Holy Spirit comes into me to make me a new person. That is called **regeneration** and is the **first great work of the Holy Spirit** (Titus 3:5). All your inward spiritual faculties will become new, and your conscience once dead will become sensitive. The proof is, if you tell one lie it will be visible. You will be miserable, and at night you will not be able to sleep. Formerly you were very happy to tell lies, thinking, "I am so clever", but now you cannot do it. Even a small sin will make you restless till you confess it and set things right. Otherwise there will be no sleep, and no appetite. The Holy Spirit, coming into your spirit after your sins are forgiven will automatically make you entirely new. New thoughts will come into your brain, and evil thoughts will be driven away. New desires, new affections will come in, a new hunger for God's Word, and a new longing to know about the things of eternity. A threefold change occurs automatically, a quickened spirit, an enlightened soul, and a cleansed body. The work begins in the spirit, the Holy Spirit coming into my spirit must make me a new person. "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away." Now all things are of God.

The **second inward work of the Holy Spirit** is to baptise me, or unite me, or put me into the body of Christ, to make me a member of the heavenly family, to bring me under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to help me to feel perfectly equal and one with every child of God. It is a miracle that takes place (Gal. 3:27, 28). That is the meaning of our oneness which is not by effort, but by the Spirit. I can say truthfully and very boldly that the very day the Lord Jesus Christ came into my life I began to feel perfectly one with Americans, Canadians, English, Europeans, Chinese, Japanese, Africans, everyone. This put a joy into my heart, as I thought.

"We all are one." No question of white or black, rich or poor, high or low. Why? Because the Scripture says: "By one Spirit all we are baptised into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13), which has many members. We will feel perfectly one with anyone, no greed, no pride, no covetousness! But this will never come by personal effort. We will be conscious of the same Spirit flowing through us constantly and giving us whatever ministry He chooses.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). Automatically we are given some job to do, just as in the body we have feet and legs and hands, and every member of the body is necessary. For example, behind the ear there are some tiny glands very small and without shape, but if they are diseased, there may be serious malfunction. It's the same with other small glands in the body here and there. They are necessary and play a big part. The hairs in your nose are never washed but the hairs on the head are washed very often. Yet both are necessary. Without the hairs in your nose you might get T.B. What an important function they have! So I see by the Holy Spirit, that I can no longer take pride in my nationality or education or wealth or position, for I am only one member in the Body of Christ in which every member is necessary. I know my job. What you can do I cannot do. What I can do you cannot do. And all of us put together make a healthy Body. That's why we feel perfectly one with every child of God, and there is joy in our fellowship wherever we go. When I go round the world I don't ask any question about who or what you are. I am not concerned with the nationality or the family of a Christian. "Are you a child of God?" I ask them. "Are you born again?" "Yes, brother. Praise the Lord!" Answers like that make one so happy. There is a peculiar joy in knowing that he belongs

to the same family that I belong to. We believe in the same verses, I am also a believer, praise God. I have met many believers throughout the world. Sometimes when I happen to see a person, I think, he must be a believer for his shining face tells me so. **That is the second work of the Holy Spirit.** Inwardly we are joined in oneness with all believers of every country.

The third inward work of the Holy Spirit is the sealing for safety (Ephesians 1:11-13). When you want to send a letter by registered post, you put a seal on the outside that means: "Don't dare to touch it." The seal is there and only the person whose name is on the envelope can open the letter. The seal in the Bible speaks of safety. The Lord Jesus Christ has sealed me and I belong to Him (John 10:27). If you have become His sheep you are safe, for God has put a seal upon you, and the Devil can never take you away. The Lord says so clearly, "and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28,29). The Lord knows us. 2 Timothy 2:19 and 2 Cor. 1:22. The third work of the Holy Spirit then is to seal me, to make me the purchased possession of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Devil may come, but he will not succeed in plucking me from the Lord's hand because my Lord's seal is there, and I am safe in Him. I belong to Him.

Among all the animals sheep is the most helpless animal. Other animals like donkeys, horses, cows, buffaloes, pigs, dogs and cats find their own way. If you put your cat in a dilly bag and leave it outside or even very far away, it will come back to you, or if you leave your dog many miles away, it will come back to you. Even bullocks or horses or pigs can find the way, but not sheep. The sheep may be lost only a few

yards away but it cannot find the way. The shepherd must go and find it. In Isaiah 53:6 we read, "All we like sheep have gone astray," and the Lord has come to find us. He says : "My sheep hear my voice " In Palestine you find four or five shepherds keeping their sheep in one sheeptold. Then at night they keep watch one by one to protect their sheep from wild beasts. In the early morning the first shepherd comes, and he has his own whistle, and when he starts whistling his sheep will follow him very quickly, and he goes ahead to lead them. Then comes the second shepherd, he too has his own whistle, and his sheep follow him. God says they will not follow strangers. Even though they are so stupid otherwise, in that matter they are very clever (John 10:5).

Once you become a sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ by hearing His voice, no power can pluck you from God's hand. You are safe unto eternity. But many are not His sheep and they do not know His voice, they do not know how and when He speaks, for they cannot recognise His voice. Our Lord knows where his own sheep are and they are safe in Him. He knows our condition, our dangers and difficulties, and He comforts us and saves us. I have experienced this again and again. In the beginning, I remember very clearly, I had just begun reading the Bible and had no idea whatsoever of wrong teaching. I did not know who false teachers were. Because I was the only Indian in Winnipeg, Canada, many would come to me with wrong teaching and false doctrine, hoping to draw me to their side. But I heard a voice in my spirit saying: "Don't trust them. Even though they are so nice and good, so kind and gentle, don't trust them!" Thus the Lord saved me from many wrong teachings. Not by argument but by inward conviction. When we are sealed by the Holy Spirit we have the assurance that our Lord knows us and will protect us from every possible danger around us.

The fourth inward work of the Holy Spirit is that **He is the earnest of our inheritance** (Eph 1:14 and 2 Cor. 1:22). Suppose you want to buy a property, you would go down to the city, look at the property and if you like it, you agree to buy it, for may be Rs. 80,000 or more. Because you agree to buy it, straightway you pay down a deposit. It may take you a month or two to pay the balance and get the property registered in your name, but you can say, "I have paid a deposit of Rs. 5000 for that land and house, and now they belong to me " That is the **earnest**.

Now we see in the Scriptures that the Lord Jesus Christ has called us for a great heavenly inheritance (1 Peter 1:4). He wants you and me to be ready for our share of the heavenly inheritance. The proof is the earnest of the Holy Spirit. The very fact that the Holy Spirit has come into me to teach me and show me all things is a proof to me of the earnest of my heavenly inheritance, and that clears every doubt. I want that inheritance and now I have no longing and no desire for worldly possessions. My Lord has prepared for me a great spiritual, undefiled, incorruptible, glorious, heavenly inheritance. The more you allow the Holy Ghost to work in you, the more proof you have of the earnest; it is a foretaste of the heavenly inheritance. It tells you again and again not to be deceived by worldly glitter and glamour, which is only a passing show. Do not be deceived by worldly wealth, for it will all go away, and nothing will go with you. Rather, long for your share in the heavenly inheritance, and be ready for it.

The spirit of revelation is the fifth inward work of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:16-20). Paul was praying that God would give to His people the spirit of revelation and wisdom.

Why? "that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead." The very same power by which the Lord Jesus Christ rose again and was highly exalted far above all powers and principalities has now come into you. The Holy Ghost is given to me that I may know **how to use that wonderful power of resurrection** for all my needs. For the very same purpose God did not give a child to Abraham for 25 years. He promised in Genesis 12, when he was 75 years old, that he would give him a son. After waiting for 25 years he was given a child. Why did he have to wait? He had become old, his wife had become old. He was now 100 years old and she was 90 years old. They both had passed the age of child-bearing. So unless God put a new life in their bodies they could not have a child. God wanted to show Abraham that there was power available to him, death conquering power, called the power of resurrection. It was by that power that God was able to say to Abraham: "You will see My city which hath foundations, and there you have a heavenly inheritance."

Now many people want power but they want the wrong power. Paul prayed in Philippians 3:10 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection." By that power of resurrection you can overcome every barrier, temptation, and obstacle. That power will never be exhausted because we are planted together both in the death and in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 6:5, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." They go together. Now the Holy Spirit has come into me to reveal to me the secret

of receiving into me daily the power of resurrection for my work and my walk, my temptations and my problems. It is there! By the very same power of resurrection the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom to know the hope of our calling and to understand why God has chosen us and what is our particular place in the Church of God.

The sixth inward work of the Holy Spirit is seen in Eph. 3:16. **"....be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man"** That work is going on inside the believer. Our inner man, the new man, will be strengthened even though we still remain human beings. We require new life, new strength, new power day by day that we might eventually be filled with God's fullness. Upon the earth we have a foretaste. Whenever you feel weak spiritually and find it hard to fully believe the Bible, or even to intercede, say: "Now Lord, strengthen me in the inner man. I feel helpless, empty, barren. Lord, have mercy upon me. Give me new strength that I may enjoy Thy Word, and speak with Thee and spend time in Thy presence." He will give it to you.

We find it difficult to enjoy the power of resurrection because we do not know how to be strengthened in the inner man by the Holy Spirit. Paul was praying for the Ephesians, that they might be strengthened with might in the inner man, that they might enjoy fully His love, that Christ might dwell in their hearts, that they might be rooted and grounded in love and also might be able to comprehend with the saints what is the breadth and length, and depth and height; and know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that they might be filled with the fullness of God. So the more we are strengthened in the inner man, the more we are qualified to be filled with God's fullness. Try whenever you feel spiritually

empty, barren, helpless and weak. Go upon your knees and say "Lord, I feel so weak, I have nothing. I don't know what to do, what to say, I can't even pray properly Lord, I won't leave You, it is my privilege and right, for I have no one else to go to, will You please strengthen me in the inner man and pour Your Spirit into me?" Then wait for a while by faith I have tried it again and again and it works

Finally, the seventh inward work of the Holy Spirit within us is **Sanctification**. (1 Peter 1:2) "**through sanctification of the spirit unto obedience** and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." Sanctification helps me to obey God's Word. Sometimes God speaks to us and we find it very hard to obey. We say in our hearts, "How can I obey?" But the Holy Spirit by sanctifying me gives me extra courage, till I say "I do not care what people say, I will obey my Lord. He has called me for His service, I will obey Him. If He wants me to go there, I will go. What He says, I will do. what He demands I will give." That is true sanctification because I know a God that I have is only for Him.

Sometimes we keep a vessel that is meant only for some special guests and not to be used ordinarily. A coffee-set or tea set, is kept in the cupboard for a guest of honour. When he comes the beautiful set is brought out and put back in the same place; it is only ever meant for this special use. Similarly my body, my faculties are wholly and solely for the Lord Jesus Christ. They cannot be given to anyone else. That is sanctification, and with that sanctification I am able to obey my Lord. "Now, Lord You ask and I will give You. All my money is Yours, my time is Yours, my energy is Yours. You ask and I will give joyfully"

Sanctification is also unto "the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." We are being constantly defiled by evil thoughts by looking at a picture, or by hearing something filthy. Just as our eyelids start winking to take away dirt from our eyes, so whenever I become dirty by sinful thoughts, the Holy Spirit works in me straightway and brings the precious blood to cleanse me. God's Word says in Matthew 15:19: "out of the heart proceed evil thoughts." No one is free from them. The only remedy is the blood. There is no need to wait till Sunday or Easter Sunday. The very second I am defiled I cry out: "Lord, I am defiled, please wash me straightway" and He washes me straightway. The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring into me the sprinkling of the precious blood to keep me perfectly clean every second, every moment, every hour and not only once in a while. Some people take a bath only once a week and they are quite happy. Some take bath once a month, and they are also very happy. Some take bath once in three months, and some people do not take bath for many months. There are some Christians of the same type who confess their sins only on Christmas Day, or Easter Day, or some other big day. They have no concern, no guilty conscience. But as a believer I must be kept clean, pure, unspotted, washed thoroughly every second. I find the Holy Spirit coming to me again and again. If you are defiled, He prompts: "Be washed, you are defiled, be washed even though you are defiled." Many times a day the Holy Spirit is there constantly washing and that gives me a pure heart. Then I can talk with God freely, and enjoy His abiding presence. It is not by my own effort, but by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. These go together. So in 1 Peter 1:2 we see, "Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied." That is the result of being kept clean and pure by the precious blood. By the Holy Spirit I enjoy God's grace in advance. I have perfect peace.

multiplied within me like a river. When I find my peace becoming less, to me it is a signal: 'You are defiled, your peace has become less, now go upon your knees again.' When I pray, "Lord, cleanse me, wash me thoroughly" then peace comes again.

Summary :

The first work of the Holy Spirit is **Regeneration**; the second work is to **baptize us into one body** to feel perfectly one with every child of God; the **third** work is to **seal** us for our safety; the **fourth** work is to show our future heavenly inheritance as the **earnest**; the **fifth** work as the Spirit of revelation is to show unto me my heavenly calling and the privilege of receiving into me **the power of resurrection** for all my needs; the **sixth** work is to be **strengthened** by might in the inner man to enjoy His love, fullness and also be rooted into Him, and the **seventh** work is **sanctification unto obedience and constant cleansing**. Amen



5. THE SEVENFOLD OUTWARD WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The phrase "seven Spirits" is repeated four times in Rev 1:4, 4:5; 3:1 and 5:6. We can divide the work of the Holy Spirit into four groups of seven each. We have seen already there are seven names in the Bible given to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of holiness, the Eternal Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of the Son, the Spirit of power, love and a sound mind, the Spirit of anointing. These seven names, tell us what the main function or working of the Holy Spirit is, in our lives. Then we saw the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit which goes on within us very quietly.

Now we are going to see the sevenfold work of the Holy Ghost which can be seen outwardly, that is, the sevenfold outward expression of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives which can be seen by friends or enemies, neighbours, strangers, relations and fellow-believers. It cannot be hid. That work is made clear to us in Romans chapter 8.

1. The Indwelling Spirit:

First, Rom. 8:9, 'But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.' Take for example a building. By itself it cannot give you comfort. Before living in it, it must be furnished. You require furniture for the drawing room, living room, kitchen and bathroom, also lights, curtains, water and food. Only then the building is useful. Here we have the same thought. The Holy Spirit has come into us to make you and me a fit, worthy dwelling place for the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ wants my body and your body to be His temple, His dwelling place.

forever, not only for a few days. This is a mystery I will give you another example. The Queen of England came to India some years ago and stayed in India for a few weeks only. She spent a few days in Delhi, and a few days in Bangalore, and two or three days in other places. I remember she stayed in a small place near Bangalore for two days only and the Government of Mysore had to spend more than two lacs of rupees for the two-day stay. They had to buy new furniture and new vessels, so, worthy of the Queen. How could they use old things for the Queen? Now if the Queen of England had to be so accommodated, what about the King of kings? We see in Rev. 19:16 the Lord Jesus is called the **King of kings** and the **Lord of lords**. "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**". 1 Tim. 6:15, "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the **King of kings**, and **Lord of lords**." There are many names given to the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible, one of which is King of kings and Lord of lords. And every knee shall bow to Him according to Phil. 2:10. He is worthy to be given all the welcome.

Now for the heavenly King to come in, the Holy Spirit must make my heart and body a fit and worthy dwelling place for Him. In other words the Holy Spirit will bring into us the virtues of the Lord Jesus Christ. We sing "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me" but it is practised by very few. It is quite true, if you allow the Holy Ghost to possess you, others will see the good He has done for you. When a child is born in any family the neighbours come to see the baby. Some say, "The baby is like the mother," others say, "No, no. He is like father." Both are right. The eyes may be like the father's and the cheeks like the mother's. As the baby grows older, you can see both their features there. Similarly, as we allow the Holy Spirit to possess us completely, others will see in us His

love, purity, glory, beauty, tenderness, kindness, and they will say of us, 'he must be a Christian'

I remember many years ago in a very crowded train a man came into the compartment. Another man was so rude and rough to him, but the first man went on smiling. I said to myself 'He must be a Christian, the way he can bear a rebuke' So I called him to my side and asked him, "who are you?" He said, "I am a Christian." By his shining face I knew he must be a Christian, otherwise how could he bear unprovoked rebuke and scolding! The Holy Spirit will surely bring upon our faces a peculiar glory and beauty, but to obtain this we have to obey Him. We must be willing to be possessed by Him, and then men can see His light shining upon our face - a light which cannot come by powder, soap, cream or any other outward application. The divine light which God gives us imparts true beauty, and that comes only by the complete possession of the Holy Spirit

Our Lord says in Matthew 11:29, 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls' When two bullocks plough a field, they require a yoke, and they both pull together. The Lord says, 'You take My yoke upon you. Let us pull together as partners. As you take My yoke upon you, you will have meekness, lowliness and gentleness. He will make us like Himself'. We cannot do this ourselves. The first great work of the Holy Spirit is to bring into us the outward virtues of the Lord Jesus Christ that can be seen by people around us. I have travelled to many parts of the world. When I see people as I go here and there my heart says 'Yes, that person is a believer; there is a peculiar brightness on his face'

The apostle says in Galatians 2 20, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." If He does live in me, then surely others ought to be able to say, "I can see you are a Christian!" One more example As you pass down a street, you say, "That building looks like a school; that building looks like a workshop, that building must be some wealthy man's house; this is a poor man's house." This is the impression we get as we walk by. Similarly, when a man passes by you, he must be able to say, "This is the Lord's building," or "that is Satan's building." They can see by our faces, eyes, smile and behaviour, that this body is the temple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Col. 3.12 16 lists the virtues of a believer. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye And above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." This is my first point: the indwelling Spirit brings into us all the graces and virtues of the Lord Jesus, not by our own efforts or power, or Bible knowledge, or long prayers, but by the Holy Spirit. By allowing God to take hold of our lives saying: "I am Thine, You possess me completely, I give Thee full authority." Others will be able to see all these virtues shining on our faces with the beauty and glory of Christ.

2. The Quickening Spirit

The second name is the **Quickening Spirit**; "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:11). The quickening Spirit will one day make our bodies immortal. "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorrupt on, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54). The day is coming when we shall be given immortal, glorified, heavenly, spiritual bodies, and with that body we shall see Him and be like Him, by the power of the quickening Spirit. Even now upon the earth we can have a foretaste of that quickening Spirit. When we feel weak physically, God gives extra strength to serve Him.

After my conversion I had no money. My father had a very big highcourt case and I sent a cable. Then a second one and a third one, but no reply. I became absolutely stranded and penniless. I was wearing very nice clothes, so no one could guess how poor I was, or that I had empty pockets. So I went looking for a job. I decided that I was not going to borrow or beg from anyone for that would bring a reproach to the Lord's Name. Romans 13:8 says: "Owe no man anything," so I decided "I am not going to borrow even from my friends." I tried to get a job, but there was no job for me. Every time I went for a job, I was told that I was too late.

One day a man said to me, "Can you cook Indian curries?" I said, "I can't cook what you want, but in London I used to cook food for myself, it was for my own taste: how can I cook food for Europeans and Americans?" The man said to me, "You try, and if you succeed we will put it on, and if

you don't succeed we will withdraw it." I had to pray very hard, 'Lord tell me now, how much salt, how much chilli, how much pepper I need.' I went on praying and pouring and stirring at the same time. When the food was served, one lady came to me, she was a Christian 'Mr Cook" she said, "who taught you to cook like this? I have been to Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, but I have never enjoyed such a nice curry." It was the Lord only that taught and I got the job as a cook. The result was I had to prepare food for a thousand people by myself. Single handed, I had to prepare rice and mutton and other meat and vegetables for a thousand people. I had to pray very hard, "Lord, You know my condition, give me new strength, new vigour, and a new spirit." He gave it. For two years I worked and not even once was the cooking spoiled, but that was only by God's grace, not by my power or knowledge or skill. I had no skill at that time, and that is how God taught me a lesson that even now upon the earth, we can claim extra strength and wisdom by the quickening Spirit.

When I came to India afterwards we had to walk 30 miles a day sometimes for Gospel work. We had no motor-car; we would go on walking and preaching. We would start early in the morning and go on walking and preaching the whole day and come back at midnight having no food. But our Lord gave us strength. How did it happen? We prayed daily: 'Lord, we are in Your service, do it for Your glory alone. We do not know Your plan. Will You give us Your extra strength to walk?' I know by my own constitution I cannot walk so many miles a day, and at the same time take meetings five times a day, but God gave the strength. Sometimes we have had prayer for the whole night for one week or even two weeks. The Lord gives strength if we take it. Whenever you feel weak physically and you have a heavy burden to carry in your office or school or home or workshop, pray, 'Lord give me extra

strength, I can't work; touch my bones and my muscles and my body." He does it. That is a foretaste upon the earth of the quickening Spirit, the same quickening Spirit which will one day give me an immortal body that I may reign with my Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever in a glorified body.

3. The Leading Spirit

The **third** name is the **Leading Spirit**: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom 8:14). This is the third outward expression of the work of the Holy Ghost in our lives. He leads us step by step in God's plan. We are so foolish, we cannot find God's will. I have put that question to many people throughout the world, even to many scholars and pastors, "Please tell me, how you find God's will," and they are puzzled and cannot answer properly. Even though they know the Bible by heart, when they come to the real test of finding God's will, very few know it. Yet I find in the Bible that this is the most important thing for a Christian, a believer, because the whole life of the Lord Jesus Christ was lived in doing the Father's will. "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (John 4:34). "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (John 5:30). "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38). "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God: or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17). "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29). "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31). Six references, and in

every reference the emphasis is on God's will, that goes to prove that before God it is a very important matter to find God's will and do it. The last prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ in Gethsemane was "nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17). In other words, do not be foolish! Whenever someone calls you a fool, you get very angry and you do not speak with him for ten days. "He called me a fool in the meeting, so I won't go there" you say. But it is God speaking to you, not myself. If you don't know how to find God's will, what are you? A fool! "Be ye not unwise"! Or in other words, "Do not be a fool" God says, "but understand what the will of God is." Can you say truthfully that you are able to find God's will everyday and for every need, every problem, every association? If not, then there is something wrong with your spiritual growth. I can see clearly that this is the third outward expression of the Holy Spirit in my life, to lead me and to teach me God's perfect will. Now I can say, "God has taught me by experience".

One day in Vancouver, Canada, I got a telephone call and the man said to me: "Will you come and speak to us on a certain Sunday?" I said, "I will see my diary and let you know." I saw in my diary and that day I was free. "Yes, I will be very glad to come and speak for you on that Sunday." My friends overheard it and they said to me, "Don't you pray and find God's will before accepting an invitation?" I said, "There is no need to pray, I am free, I am not going for any worldly business. It is my privilege to give God's message and my testimony. I am not going to waste my time." But they said, "How do you know, God may have some other plan for you." I thought they were trying to find fault with me, so I got

offended and did not wish them "Good morning" for two weeks. I would not speak to them, but hid anger in my heart. After two weeks the Lord pulled my ear "Do you know how to find My will?" I did not know. Even though I had read the whole Bible four or five times and was completely free from worldly pleasures, and had no interest even in such things, yet could not say truthfully: 'I know how to find God's will!' It was a shock to me. So I said, "Lord, now onwards I will not go anywhere, I will not take any meeting. Will You teach me to find Your will?" I went to the seaside by some rocks and sat there the whole day, praying, "Lord, teach me to find Your will, I will follow You all the way," and the Lord taught me.

If any one questions me in India or anywhere, "What is your highest privilege as a Christian?" My answer is, "The privilege of finding and doing God's will." What a joy it is when God does speak to me saying, "This is the way." I feel as though I am walking in heaven. Whatever may happen, I know my safety is in doing God's will. So I gave God a promise: "Lord I am not going anywhere till You speak with me, I won't spend my money till You give me permission." I do not do anything until He speaks and God helps.

I will give you a very simple example. While I was in America, I wanted a hair-cut. I said, 'Lord, look at my hair, it is very long, and ugly, can I go and have hair cut?' The Lord said, "No." So I went on praying for three weeks. Now a lot of people would think, with one look at my long hair that it required a cut. But God said, "No!" After three weeks God gave me permission, "Now, you can go today for a hair cut." I went and while the barber was cutting my hair, I said, "Mr Barber, are you born again?" He said, "No." I said, "Do you want to born again?" He said, 'Yes.' I said 'All right

cut my hair, and I'll show you how to be born again." He cut my hair and I took my Bible and showed him how to be born again. He knelt down by the chair and was born again. I said to him as I left, "The bill please." But he would give me no bill, so I got a free hair cut! I got both, a hair cut plus a soul. What a joy it was! and just because it was God's time. I know my time is in God's hand, my body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in me, which I have of God, and I am not my own. "Ye are not your own" (1 Cor. 6.19) As believers, please mark carefully, our body is His temple, our money belongs to Him, and our time belongs to Him, because the Lord Jesus has a double claim upon us. First of all, He is my Creator; He made me, gave me life; and secondly He is my Saviour, as Isaiah 43:1 says "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee O Jacob and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." First of all God is saying, "Jacob, I have formed thee, not your mother, but it is I who have created thee, I am your Creator." That is the first claim. And then He says: "I have called thee by thy name, I have redeemed thee." I am the purchased possession of the Lord Jesus Christ. He purchased me by His blood and that is why my time, my money, my energy and my body belong to Him, for I am not my own.

I remember very clearly, one day my mother said to me, "My son, will you kindly stay for one more day?" I said, "No mother the Lord has spoken to me, and I must go by today's train." She said, "I am your mother, I have got some claim over you." I said, "Yes only one claim, but the Lord Jesus has a double claim over me; He is my Redeemer and also my Creator. I know He must come first." She said, "All right, you pray and see what He says." So I prayed, "Lord Jesus Christ, my mother says stop for one day, can I?" The Lord said: "No."

So I told my mother that I was very sorry, the Lord was saying that I must go, and I must obey Him. Then she wanted to know why God was saying so. It is because He must come first. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. (Matth. 10:37). That is why we are given the Holy Spirit, to lead us step by step, and thank God when we wait patiently we can find His perfect will.

To be sure of God's will you have to have a seventold evidence. I will give you in brief these seven evidences of God's will. **First** of all 1 Sam. 16: 12. We can call this **The witness of the Holy Spirit**. 'And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and vital of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' This was a man of God, called Samuel, sent by God Himself to the house of Jesse of Bethlehem to find David. He was about to be deceived when he saw Eliab the elder son. Going by his height and stature, he thought he was the right man to be a king, but God said, "No!" God said, "Don't look at the countenance or stature, this is not my choice." He brought all his seven sons. But none of them were right. Then he came to David who was only a young fellow. God said, "Anoint him, this is he." That means, if you are in God's perfect will, the Holy Spirit will tell you. That is the witness of the Holy Ghost in my spirit, speaking to me.

The **second** evidence is in Psalm 119:105. This is **the witness of the Word of God**. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." If you read your Bible very slowly and carefully every day, God will confirm His will through a portion from His Word, from your daily portion. It may be a fragment or a passage, or a whole chapter. I have found this to be so. During my early morning devotions or at midday or evening I say, "Lord, will You kindly confirm Your

will from the following verses?" Then I find a fragment coming to life and fullness.

The **third** evidence is found in Daniel 2:17-19— **the witness of fellow-believers**. 'Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Michael and Azariah, his companions. That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret, that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.' They began to pray together, and as Daniel and his companions prayed, God revealed the secret of the dream and the interpretation. You will find it very helpful if you begin to pray with your fellow-believers, or with God's servants or elders in the church. They are given for your safety. Do not be ashamed to go to your elder brethren for prayer, asking them to pray with you and help to find God's will.

The **fourth** evidence is in Isaiah 32:17— **the witness of the growing, inward, multiplying peace**. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever." That is my fourth evidence of God's will, an inward, growing, increasing, multiplying, spiritual, heavenly peace. As you pray in the morning, in the evening, the next day, the third day and the fourth day, you will find God's peace multiplying like a river. That is your proof: God has spoken to me, the God of peace, and when He speaks there must be peace within your soul, God's own peace.

The **fifth** evidence is in the Acts of the Apostles 21:13 and 14. 'Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. And

when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done". God had spoken to Paul to go to Jerusalem. On the way came the prophet Agabus. He took Paul's girdle and tied his own hands and feet and said, "Thus saith the Holy Ghost, the man who owns this girdle will be so bound in Jerusalem." But he never said: 'Do not go there.' Though his friends said, "Don't go We need you," Paul replied, "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not only to be bound but also to die." He had a strong faith, fully prepared for any hardship that might come his way. There are occasions when we have to face hardships to obey God's will. **The fifth evidence is the witness of a strong, active, growing faith.** When God does speak, He automatically creates in you a strong faith, ready for any hard situation. When God has spoken, I must obey Him at any cost.

The sixth evidence we find in Gen. 24: 10-14: "And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed, for all the goods of his master were in his hand, and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor. And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water. And he said, "O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water. And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also. Let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac: and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master." He asked for a very peculiar sign, by which he could be sure, for he did not want to make a mistake. His choice was not governed by

height or face or family. He wanted **the witness of a sure sign.** According to your own need and purpose or plan you can ask God for any sign, and He will fulfil it. I have found by experience, that if He has given me a sign. He has always fulfilled it

The **seventh** evidence is in Heb. 13:21— **the witness of His Name being glorified**; "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever." His Name should be highly magnified through that matter for which you are praying.

These are the seven evidences by which you can find God's will. The witness of the Holy Spirit in your spirit, the witness of the Word of God, the witness of fellow believers, the witness of a growing, spiritual, multiplying, heavenly peace, of a strong, active faith, of some special sign being fulfilled, and of His Name being highly magnified. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" Rom. 8:14. This is the third, outward manifestation of the Holy Spirit. His power to lead me and to keep me upon God's right path. The Spirit will not leave you. When you are not in God's will you will become restless, you will feel that something has gone wrong. If you are in God's path there is a peculiar inward peace, that God is leading, that He will lead me; and I know that I am in His perfect will.

4. The Spirit of adoption, leading to maturity

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15). In Greece the custom among wealthy people is, when a young man comes to age

i.e. about 22 or so, the father will gather all his friends, relations and neighbours and say "Friends, now my son has attained the age of maturity. I can trust him. In your presence I give him authority from now onwards to sign all the business documents in my name." And he gives a very big key into his son's hand saying, "Now, my son, today I give you full authority to sign all the business papers in my name." We have the same thought here. God gives us the Spirit of maturity. Many of us remain babes spiritually and for many years we have no ability to bear spiritual responsibility. We only know how to come for the meetings, sit for a while, sleep for a while and go home afterwards. We enjoy the choruses and singing, but during the message we are half asleep and half awake. We have no interest in God's work and no desire to bear any active responsibility in the House of God. That is our Christian life. But as believers we are called by God to bear responsibility. Every believer has been given by the Lord Jesus Christ some work or job to do and he must do it. "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch" (Mark 13:34). That is the Lord's parable. He said that He Himself was going on a far journey and He gave authority to His servants, that means to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. They have authority to give God's Word with authority. Then He says, "To every man his work." The Lord Jesus Christ gave every believer some job to do, and when He comes back we have to give an account to Him of the different talents we have received from Him, whether it be five talents or three or two or one. So many believers have no desire to do any job in the House of God but we are given the Spirit of maturity to help us to bear the burden and say by faith: "Lord Jesus Christ, give me some job, give me some work to do for Thee!"

Sometimes if you stay as a guest with a family, you feel happy if you wash the vessels or scrub the floor and wash the clothes. But in the House of God you go to sleep. You are very clever at washing vessels, scrubbing the floor or washing shirts, but in the House of God you want no job. If you want to grow spiritually, you must have some job in the House of God. You must find out by prayer: "Lord, tell me what is my job, what is my service in Your House, and I will do it gladly." What He says, do it, for that is how we grow spiritually by the work of the Holy Spirit.

5. The Witnessing Spirit

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8.16,17). The **witnessing Spirit** is the fifth work of the Holy Spirit to teach me about my share of the heavenly inheritance that the Lord Jesus has for me in heaven, for we are joint-heirs. If your father is going to leave you some property, you must learn how to look after it, otherwise it will be wasted. The Lord Jesus Christ has made me a joint-heir of His inheritance and I must learn upon the earth, how to look after it. All my suffering upon the earth is for a purpose, to teach me, to educate me, to help me, and train me, to enjoy my heavenly inheritance.

Vs. 17-18 "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." The work of the Holy Spirit is to tell me how God has prepared for me in heaven a great inheritance. All your sufferings, afflictions, trials and hardships of any kind,

are your education and training, for your enjoyment of the heavenly inheritance. That is why we are triumphant in our trials, and do not murmur or complain, but thank God for suffering. For through this suffering we are qualified to reign with the Lord Jesus in heaven.

6. The Helping Spirit

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us." (Rom 8:26). We do not know what to pray for, but as we begin to obey the Holy Spirit, He will remind us for whom to pray. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14). The Holy Spirit will remind you almost every day to pray for someone. We do not know where they are or what they need. When we go upon our knees the Lord says, "Pray for So and So, and So and So," and that is why I do not have any written list of prayer. Then I get a letter saying, "I was sick and your prayer was just in time". As you wait on the Lord, He will remind you to pray for someone may be, in India or Africa, and by your prayers some are healed or comforted, some are strengthened or guided, some even are protected from danger. It is my privilege, as the Lord's servant, and partner, and co worker to pray for many people in every part of the world. I can spend hours in prayer in this way, and what a joy it is! In the beginning I could pray for hardly 15 minutes. I could read my Bible for a long time and have a good time at it. I could attend long meetings, but could not pray for more than 15 minutes. Either my knees were aching, or my stomach was aching, or my head was aching, but not now; it is fellowship, it is joy, it is strengthening to pray, morning, midday, or evening, at any time. I am reminded by the Spirit about many

things in many parts of the world. He has helped me to remember many people wherever they are and whatever their needs be

7. The Interceding Spirit

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom 8:27). The Spirit is given to us that we may be able to intercede for God's saints. In the end days the enemy will be very active. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Rev 12:9-11).

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent" (Rev.12:12-14). In the end days the devil uses three weapons against God's people, he is the deceiver, secondly he is the accuser, and thirdly, he is the persecutor (v 9) "And the great

dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." That is the first weapon the devil uses- deceiving God's people. Secondly v 10 "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ : for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night " And thirdly (v 13) "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman, which brought forth the man child." The devil as an accuser goes about accusing God's servants and His saints. You will be surprised how many people are used by the devil to make a false charge against God's people. Sometimes they say many horrible things, just to cause trouble. So the devil has power to be an accuser and a deceiver and a persecutor; but we can intercede for those people. I have been reminded again and again with a burden upon my heart to intercede for so and so, and that means perseverance and travail in prayer. We can pray no ordinary prayer, when so many saints are being attacked by the devil by persecution or deception or accusation. Only by intercession can they be protected. In India when God's people were being accused for many things we decided to intercede. Sometimes we had a whole night of prayer, or a whole day of prayer. We never bothered to write any letter of defence but by intercession they were protected. God's Word says; "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord" (Isa. 54 :17). It is only by intercession that we can help them. Do not waste your time in writing letters for self-defence, and do not lose your sleep either. Have a full meal and go to sleep; but intercede for them. By intercession we claim God's protection for those who are being attacked by the devil either

by accusation or deception or persecution. The devil has great power to persecute God's servants and saints. We protect them by intercession, by travailing in prayer.

Thus I have shown you the seven outworkings of the Holy Spirit. First of all the indwelling Spirit, secondly, the quickening Spirit; thirdly, the leading Spirit, fourthly, the Spirit of adoption or maturity; fifthly, the witnessing Spirit, sixthly the helping Spirit and seventhly the Spirit of intercession. This is the sevenfold outward expression of the work of the Holy Spirit which can be seen by friends, enemies, neighbours or relations. So keep them in mind and pray by faith. "Lord Jesus Christ, I want to be with You on Your throne. Will You kindly possess me completely by Your Spirit? Fill me with Your Spirit according to Your promise. I am ready." Claim the sevenfold fulness, and He will show you how it can become yours.



6. THE SEVENFOLD MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

I want to bring to your attention the words, "The seven Spirits which are before his throne" (Rev. 1.4) The message of the book of Revelation is very important for the end days. Please do not be careless about reading it, for even though you cannot understand many details, there is no need to worry. As you prayerfully go through this book with childlike faith, God will reveal many mysteries. You can never learn hidden meaning through books, preachers, commentaries or other means. According to our need we are taught of God the hidden mysteries. I have found much blessing by simply going to Him in faith. From the beginning of my Christian life I know the Bible is the Word of God, but I had to go to it a hundred times before I began to see its deep meaning. I want to share with you what God has shown me.

The main message of the book is, God wants us to be with Him upon the throne. He is not satisfied by forgiving our sins only. He is longing to work in us till we are with Him upon the throne. The Lord says in chapter 3:21: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." The throne means kingdom, dominion, power and authority. God wants us to have a share in all this and He has made every provision to bring us to His throne. He wants us only to obey Him and follow Him and He tells us how to do so. It is to this end that we are given these words: "The seven Spirits." You say, "I know my weakness, how I fail God every day." We all do. When I point my finger at others my own hand convicts me. There are four fingers pointing towards me

and one towards you, which means I have four weaknesses while you have only one. None of us are free from shortcomings and failures but praise God for His wonderful salvation! He is able to lift us up high and keep us upon the throne, provided we give the Holy Spirit full freedom to do His work in us.

The number seven is repeated many times in the Bible, and stands for perfection and completion. There are seven churches, and these represent the whole Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Similarly, the Bible speaks of a book with seven seals, a book which contains perfect knowledge, about things so far hidden. The number seven indicates God's perfection, which means that if I permit the Holy Spirit to work in me daily, fully and freely, I shall rise higher and higher till I reach God's throne. This is something impossible to do by myself.

We have seen the sevenfold work which the Holy Spirit accomplishes in us, both inwardly and outwardly. God works in us according to our willingness to be possessed and used by Him.

Now we shall see the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

How did the Holy Spirit work in Christ? In Luke 1.34, 35 we read, "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." That is the **first** great work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was **conceived by the Holy Spirit**, and not by human activity.

In the same way we also are born again by the Holy Spirit and not by human wisdom or cleverness. No matter how many sermons we hear they cannot accomplish in us the work of salvation. The Lord told Peter the same thing in Matthew 16: 15-17, "He saith unto him, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Peter had been with the Lord Jesus for three years. What a privilege! He forsook all and followed Him and for three years saw every miracle He had done; and heard every sermon He had preached. When Peter said, "Thou art the Christ," the Lord said, "Don't think Simon, that you understand Me because you are with Me; don't think you understand Me by seeing My miracles, or by your own cleverness. My Heavenly Father has revealed this to you." Unless the Holy Spirit comes into us, none of us can know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour. For salvation is not by sermons or human activity, or reasoning or argument, but by the work of the Holy Spirit in divine revelation. By that alone I realize that He died for me, personally, and it was by that personal revelation that the work of the Gospel began and spread to many parts of the world.

I have often told this story, but I will tell it again. An artist in Germany was painting a portrait of a young girl. In his studio was a painting of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. This young girl had never before seen such a painting. She was curious and kept asking: "Who is that person?" The artist tried to avoid answering, but she was persistent, and at last he said vaguely, "He is the One Who died for the world." "He

must have been a very great person to die like this", she said, "I wish I had known Him." She came to realize that if the Lord Jesus Christ died for the world, He had died for her and she believed, and loved Him in return. One day she sent a message to the artist "I am very ill, will you please come and see me before I die? I want to see you and thank you." The artist came and saw the dying girl, but her face was shining with perfect peace. She said, "Sir, I want to thank you for introducing me to the Lord Jesus Christ. Till I came into your studio, I never knew Who the Lord Jesus was. It was there I heard something about Him. Now I know that He died for my sins. I know He has forgiven me, and I am going to Him," with that she closed her eyes peacefully and slept in death.

The artist thought, "How strange! That portrait of Christ has been lying in my studio for so many years but I am the same man. The knowledge that changed her has not changed me." For a long time he sat thinking, till the love of the crucified Christ filled his heart, and he wept in repentance and also believed. Then he said: "Now I shall paint another picture of the Lord Jesus on the Cross." For many months he laboured on the picture and after finishing it he wrote at the bottom—**"All this I did for thee, what hast thou done for Me?"**

Years later, when the artist had passed away, the picture hung in an art gallery in Germany, and many came and looked at it and went away. But one man, Count Zinzendorf by name came there and could not leave the place. Again and again he read the words, **"All this I did for thee, what hast thou done for Me?"** For hours he stood there till closing time. For the first time in his life he realized that Christ had died for him also, and there in the art gallery he knelt down not caring who saw him and gave himself to Christ. Later he gave all his

wealth and property for Gospel work. That is how the work of the Moravian Mission began. Zinzendorf became the founder of the Mission. It was through the Moravians that Wesley was born again on his way to America.

This proves to us that it is not by reasoning, but by the Holy Spirit that the eyes of the spirit are opened. You may argue with someone for years, and nothing happens. But as soon as we begin to pray something begins to happen. It was like that with my father. After my conversion, he read the whole Bible. He said to me, "Yes it is a wonderful book but I cannot say this is the only book." I said, "I am not going to argue with you, I shall only pray for you. The day will come, I am sure, when the Lord will deal with you and will know this is the only book." He read it a second time - the whole Bible - then the third time. He said to me, "Yes it is a wonderful book but I cannot say the Lord Jesus Christ is the only Saviour."

One day we were having a meeting in my own home town. About ten to fifteen Hindus got together and tried to stop the meeting with stones. After the message was over the people knelt and began to pray. One sister began a chorus, "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" They sang the chorus again and again with tears. The Hindus got up and went outside, then came in and out stamping with their shoes on the floor and trying to disturb us. However, no one took any notice though for half an hour they kept going out and coming in again. That night my father was there. He said to me, "Now I am convinced that there is some power in these meetings. They tried their best to disturb but they could not." I saw those Hindus myself. That night I saw my father saying, "Lord have mercy on me. Lord have mercy on me. I am a sinner. Have mercy on me." After a while he went for a high court case, saw an empty church; feeling

very tired he went inside to take rest. Suddenly he saw a bright light before him and heard these words, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." My father said, "Lord Jesus, You have saved my son, save me also." Then he told me, "Now I know this is the only Book." He humbled himself and was baptised and his face shone as he witnessed in baptism. Now he has gone to Glory, but I know we shall meet again.

Unless we learn to pray for people, for their salvation, they will not be saved. We think sometimes that by worldly methods and cleverness, by good preaching and music we can save many souls. This is deception. The real work of God is wrought only by the Holy Spirit. We cannot leave Him out, however clever we may be. The Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit. Our eyes can be opened only by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:3 tells us: "I gave you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed, and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit." This is a very important truth for salvation. Parents can pray for the conversion of their children, friends and neighbours - pray, "Lord, save my brother, my sister, my wife, my husband or my children" and through your faith God can send the Holy Spirit into their hearts. Then they will grow, and learn to face any trial or persecution. John 2:23-25 reads: "Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man, for he knew what was in man." That was the first time the Lord Jesus came to the Temple. When He performed a miracle, many began shouting "He's the Messiah! He's the Messiah". The Lord said, "I don't believe in you. I know tomorrow you will say, Crucify Him! crucify Him!"

The **Second** work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ is found in Luke 3:21-22. "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying the heaven was opened, And the **Holy Ghost** descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased." Our Lord began His earthly ministry by prayer. This was His first occasion of public appearance, and as He was baptized He prayed, and as the heavens were opened the Holy Spirit came down upon Him. Then came the Voice, "This is my beloved Son." This is the test of the true fulness of the Holy Spirit. Many people are deceived in this matter and want some other sign for fulness, but the seal of the Voice of God is the true sign of fulness. Before the Lord began His public ministry He was filled with the Holy Spirit. See also Luke 4:1, "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness". So my sure test of the fulness of the Holy Spirit is the ability to hear the voice of God daily. Before I lie down, I ask, 'Lord, are You satisfied with my life? Are You satisfied with my ministry? I am not going to be governed by number, by what people say. Lord, are You satisfied?' He says, 'Yes my son, now go to bed. I am satisfied'. That is my test whether there was only one person in a meeting or a thousand.

The Lord's baptism was a foreshadow of His death, burial and resurrection. The Lord showed in a simple way that if we want His fulness we have to identify ourselves with His death, burial and resurrection, and then we have the fulness. We have the same thought in Rev. 5:6, "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits

of God sent forth into all the earth." Imagine the Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes standing before the throne. We have seen that the throne means a kingdom—Rev. 17:12, "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." So these seven horns of the Lamb speak of the everlasting kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was slain to establish His kingdom for eternity. Dan. 7:14 proclaims, "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom: that all people, nations and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel was made to see that all worldly kingdoms would come to an end. He saw a great image with a head of gold, arms of silver, body of brass, legs of iron, feet partly iron and partly clay. Then he saw the stone cut without hands which first broke the feet, then the legs, and the thighs, the breast, and the head, and they all became like chaff. The wind came and they were all blown away, but the stone itself became a mighty mountain which filled the whole earth. I remember reading about Napoleon. When he became a prisoner in St. Helena, he started reading the Bible. Before he died, he wrote these words: "Men like me and Caesar, Alexander the Great and King Frederick the Great have tried to establish great kingdoms but have failed." Whatever they did was only for a time but Napoleon added: "The Carpenter of Galilee has founded a Kingdom which shall never pass away, and that Carpenter has won my heart." Those were his last words.

The Lamb died to establish an eternal, heavenly kingdom, so that we can be partakers of that Kingdom. In Rev. 5:6 we read: "seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God." These eyes are the seven Spirits of God. The Lord wants us to understand that if we want the fullness of the Holy Spirit

then, we must first come under the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ. He must be the King of our heart, home and church. We must first welcome Him by faith as the King of our heart. First He is our Saviour and then our King and we must allow Him to govern and control our whole being and all of our life. Only thus can we have the fulness of the Holy Spirit.

You can never separate the work of the Cross and the Holy Spirit. As we bring ourselves under the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ we are cleansed and washed by His precious blood from our inner defilement, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Many want the Holy Spirit without the blood. It is impossible. We cannot get Him by rolling on the ground or by screaming, or by fleshly or soulful activity of any kind. I struggled for two years after my conversion, praying for hours, "Lord I want Thy fulness, Thy fulness, Thy fulness." I thought that perhaps by seeing some light, dream, vision or sign I would have the fulness. One night the Lord appeared to me and asked, "Tell me, how were your sins forgiven?" "Lord, I believed I was the greatest of sinners and that Your blood was shed for my sins, and You forgave me." The Lord said, "Then believe now, you are the weakest person and you will have My power." Like a flash I realized I was to depend upon the Lord for every word I would speak. Then why had the Lord made me a stammerer? I used to ask, "Lord, why am I a stutterer and stammerer? How can such a man be a preacher?" I cannot freely express my thoughts: words do not come to me, and I am helpless and embarrassed!" But the Lord said "You depend upon Me." And He gave me His word. I had to pray every day, "Lord, touch my lips, my tongue and my throat, for by myself I cannot speak." The Lord heard my prayer. Now I am depending upon Him alone for every word I speak. Before I go anywhere I ask Him. Even for small things I ask, "Lord, can I go to sleep? Can I do this? Can I

do that?" My time, my money and my body belong to Him. Everything belongs to Him. I must consult Him Who is the King of my heart, my brain, my hands, my feet and my whole being. So I pray, "Lord, will You please cleanse me by Your blood from inward defilement caused by thought, word, and deed?" I need daily, constant cleansing. We see in 1 John 1:7 that the blood of Jesus Christ goes on cleansing us constantly like a fountain.

The Lord's baptism shows our identification with Him in His death, burial and resurrection and we have His fulness, the sign of which is His own approval. Wait patiently on your knees every morning, meditating on His Word saying "Lord, speak to me, here am I, speak to me," and when He says, "Yes My son, or My daughter, My child, I am satisfied with thee; do not worry, go in peace, I am with thee" then you start your day and its tasks.

Thirdly in Acts 10:38 we read: "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." That was the third work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. He went about doing good with the **anointing of the Holy Spirit**. In other words, He never performed, any miracle of His own choice.

For example see John 2: 1-4. "And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee: and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come." Mary thought that being His mother, she could

command Him. "Now my Son, we are embarrassed w/it. You please come and do something?" He was not going to do it because she asked, He was doing His Father's w/ill. Whatever He did He did it with the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and not because of human sympathy or preference

John 4:4 reads, "And he must needs go through Samaria" Probably the disciples wondered why the Lord was going that way. There are two routes going from Judea to Galilee. You can go either through Samaria to Galilee, or take another route via Carmel. The Jews usually would not go via Samaria because they would not drink water or take food from the Samaritans. But the Lord insisted on going that way, as He later said to them in John 4:34, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." He went through Samaria to do the Father's will to help the needy woman in Samaria. He went about doing good at God's command, at the compulsion of the Father's will. One great purpose of the Holy Spirit is to send us to someone who is in need. We cannot help everyone. Sometimes God tells us to go and see someone and we find that person sick or sorrowful, or in trouble, or discouraged, or in some other need, and they say "You came just in time." We need to find out daily by prayer "Lord, is there someone in need today?"

Once I was in Nairobi in Africa. I was staying with a friend. He said to me, "Bakht Singh, there is a wonderful zoo here. People come from many parts of the world to see it. I shall take leave tomorrow and take you there. For miles around one sees many kinds of animals walking about, lions, tigers, and other animals." In the morning when I prayed, the Lord said, "Don't go to the zoo. Someone wants to see you." So I said to my friend, "I am sorry. I am not coming today to the zoo." "What," he said, "not coming? People come from

all parts of the world to see it. It is a wonderful sight. You must come.' I said, "No, I haven't come to see monkeys and donkeys. I have a great service for God." When I went to "Air - India" I got a message, "Someone has come to see you." There was a man who said to me, "Brother, I have travelled the whole night by bus from Mombasa, to come and see you." Mombasa is 500 miles south of Nairobi. He said he had heard that I would be passing Mombasa, but had missed me, so he had come personally to see me. After we had lunch, he said "I have got some friends from India. They may like to meet you." So we both went together in a taxi and saw those friends, and they said to me, "We have also got some friends, they too would like to meet you." So they took me in their car to another home and I met some people who had been born again and baptised in Madras in 1940. They said, "Brother, we have been praying that God would send you to us." I did not know they were there, nor their address. In about 10 minutes, we had a wonderful meeting. What a joy it was! But for God's guidance, I might have spent the time watching monkeys and donkeys. God is so great. I met, instead, some people who wanted God's message.

If we are anointed by the Holy Spirit, God gives us a message of comfort, cheer, hope or salvation. By Him we know how to go here and there in His service and life becomes fruitful.

Fourthly, Isaiah 11: 2-5. "And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing

of his ears . But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth and he shall smite the earth, with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins and faithfulness the girdle of his reins " This is the fourth work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. perfect wisdom. Every word He uttered had power and authority See Matthew 7:29, "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." See again John 7:46, "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man." The officers trembled at His words. Again in John 8:5-9, "Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned : but what sayest thou" This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst " These men were fully convinced that they had caught Him. Imagine them with their long beards and robes. They said, "Now Master, this woman was caught in the very act of sin. By our law, such a person must be stoned. What do You say?" They knew full well that He had been saying, "I have come to save sinners," and they wanted Him to say it again so that they would tell the people that He was against their law, and He would be caught. They kept quiet and thought, "Now we have caught Him, now we have caught Him". They were so sure. But the story says, beginning at the eldest they all went away. He knew them all, and knew them well. He

knew who was the eldest and who was the youngest, because He knows everyone, "Mr So and So, you are 69 years and 4 months old. What about that sin of yours?" And that man quietly slips away. Then the second one. "Now Mr So and So, your age is 65 years and 3 months and 5 days. How about that sin?" - he disappears. Then the third one, "Mr. So and So, your age is 49 years, what about that sin?" He also disappears. Scripture says beginning at the eldest they all went away one by one, "He who is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone". What wisdom! what wisdom! Perfect wisdom and perfect love! With that wisdom, He could confound the enemy.

It is not by worldly wisdom that we can win souls. People think that with cleverness, modern methods and worldly wisdom we can have a revival but it is not possible. We require divine, heavenly, spiritual wisdom and authority and also love. We read in John 8:11. "She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." What love! He forgave her and also changed her. He commanded; "Go and sin no more" and gave her power to do so.

In Luke 20:18 we read: "AND it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders, And spake unto him saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that giveth thee this authority? And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: The baptism of John was it from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven, he will say, Why then believed ye him not? But and

if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us, for they be persuaded that John was a prophet. And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was. And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things." With these few words, He confounded them. They devised a big plan but could not catch Him. By one word, He confounded them. Such was His divine, heavenly and perfect wisdom, His love and authority.

Again in Luke 20, verses 21 to 26 "And they asked him, saying, Master we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly. Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's and unto God the things which be God's. And they could not take hold of his words before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace." They marvelled because of His wisdom. And at such times God can give us also His wisdom. Whenever we have to talk to someone about the Lord, ask for His wisdom, and He will give His perfect wisdom.

Once I was giving out tracts. I gave a Gospel booklet to a Hindu and he said, "I don't want this foreign book." "You call this a foreign book but how about your cigarette?" I asked him. He was smoking a foreign made cigarette. I said, "Here you are spending your money on a foreign made cigarette, and you don't want to read this wonderful book?" He threw the cigarette away. I said, "So far the book has not come into your hands and the cigarette has gone. You buy the book and you will be abundantly blessed."

Another time when I was in a train, I met a Roman Catholic priest. As he came inside he offered me a cigar. I politely refused. I started to give my testimony to him. Then he said to me, "Why are you giving your testimony? Are you the only one in the world who is a Christian?" I said, "No. When you came in the train you offered me a cigar, because you like it. You offered me what you like. I offer you what I like." So he said, "Quite right, quite right." Then he became interested. By such simple answer we can confound the enemy. That is why we are given divine wisdom to be able to confound the enemy by a few words - no arguments, no reasoning, no intelligence, but God's message. Pray as you go outside, "Lord give me Thy message." The Lord Jesus Christ confounded all those who came to Him with one question after another. He spoke only a few words and they were put to shame.

Fifthly, in Isaiah 42:1 to 4 we read, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth, **I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment** to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: **he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged**, till he have set judgment in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law." These words speak of Christ - Jehovah's servant. Without any world's weapon, He was to establish His kingdom, not by striving or by shouting. See verse 2, "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street." By love, kindness, and truth He would win the world. He said in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." He is not drawing men unto Himself by any worldly weapon or

authority or power but by His love. As people begin to see how He died for their sins in their stead, it will draw them to Him. People think that by sending milk powder to India, they can draw men, and with that idea they send milk powder to India, with a hope that it might win friends, and perhaps draw them to Christ. But it is only by pure and divine love, that men can be saved, not by human love or by anyone's sympathy.

We find the same thought in Isa. 52 : 13-15. "Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. As many were astonished at thee, his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men : So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see: and that which they had not heard shall they consider." It is by suffering and by the work of the cross that God is drawing men to Himself; not by charity or by any other human weapon or kingdom. Many have tried to make people Christians by force, power and authority, or by money and bribery, but all have failed. That is why the work of God suffers in many countries. Some think that by giving poor people jobs, or food, they will become Christians. Thousands are baptised, but the result is confusion. We find there is much barrenness because of that sin. We should preach the Lord as Jehovah's Servant Who came to serve and die in our stead.

See Luke 9: 51-56, "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive

him because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village. They said, "Lord, these men have been blessed and healed by You so many times, now they refuse to give You shelter for one night. They deserve to be punished. Give us permission to bring down fire from heaven." But the Lord rebuked them. So we see that by humility and service our Lord won people everywhere, and not by worldly methods, by power, or authority or wealth of any kind.

The sixth work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus we find in Isaiah 61:1-3. **"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."** The very same passage was quoted by the Lord when He first came to the synagogue in Capernaum, after His baptism.

In Luke chapter 4 verses 16-19 we read, "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day,

and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" That is the best way we can preach the Gospel, and it is the Lord's way. He hath anointed us to preach the Gospel to the poor", that is, the poor in spirit. Unless men are poor in spirit, they will not accept what we say. Matthew 5:3 says: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Now those who are very much satisfied with their wealth, lands, buildings and position, often will not listen to the Gospel, and that is why the poor generally receive the Gospel more readily than the rich. They recognize their need. So the verse means both the poor in spirit and also the poor in earthly things.

Read also Luke 7 21, 22: "And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits, and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard, how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached." That was the message sent by the Lord Jesus to John the Baptist who was at that time in prison. Even though Christ performed many miracles and healed a l people, irrespective of who they were He preached the Gospel first to poor people, for the poor show more response to the Gospel than the rich. God gives the opportunity but most people do not accept it. They are so proud, and self satisfied, they do not acknowledge their need.

We should pray, "Lord, first of all let them see their spiritual poverty." As we go about we see how people are blinded by the god of this world. They do not understand even simple spiritual things. If we want them to be receptive to God's Word, we should seek to make them aware of their spiritual poverty. Only then they will realize that the Gospel is for all their needs.

Finally, Romans 1:4 gives the seventh work of the Holy Spirit in the Lord Jesus: "...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." He was raised from the dead by the Spirit of holiness. So the power of resurrection is now brought to us for the very same purpose. Compare Ephesians 1:4 to 2:1: "Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

AND you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins " Paul says here that the same power which God wrought in Christ Jesus when He rose again from the dead and ascended into heaven and was exalted far above all powers, principalities, might and dominion, can now come into us. Our Lord was raised from the dead by the Spirit of holiness and the same power can come into us. He rose again from all power, principalities, might and dominion and can now come into us. But in order to receive it we have to have that deeper work of the Holy Spirit. As we begin to understand more clearly, and pray by faith. "Lord, possess me by the Holy Spirit, I want that power of resurrection for all my needs", He works in us. He rose again that we might be more than conquerors and enjoy victory through every trial and temptation.

Now that we have seen the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have the whole secret. We cannot have the fullness of the Holy Spirit without fulfilling divine principles. Whatever God does He does by divine laws, which cannot be changed.



7. THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES OF THE OVERCOMERS

The closing chapters of the Book of Revelation describe the glory of the New Heaven and New Earth. Also they describe in detail the beauty of New Jerusalem. To prepare us for the coming New heavenly Kingdom the Holy Spirit is operating in us and bringing forth new things. They are: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:7). Some time ago I heard of this emphasis of the book of Revelation and feel it is very important and helpful for the last days. As we see the signs of the last days approaching we will find much help in reading through this book again and again. Even if we cannot understand it, we are promised a great blessing in Rev. 1:3: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" and again in Rev. 22:7 we read "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book". So there is a special exhortation by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself to all believers to pay extra attention to this book. As we read it prayerfully again and again mysteries will be unveiled that at first were not clear. The whole message of the book can be summed up in Rev. 21:7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things". That is of the new creation; not of old creation because in verse 1 of the same chapter the apostle says, "AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea". Then He says in verse 5, "Behold, I make all things new" and again in verse 7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things". It seems to be the longing in the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ

to give us all things, for the same message is repeated in 1 Cor. 3:22-23, "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." All these things of the new creation can only be enjoyed as we learn to overcome. Then we will be qualified to claim our full share in the inheritance of the coming new creation.

First, we learn to overcome by **faith**. That is how we begin the life of victory, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4- the more faith we have, the stronger it grows, and we learn to overcome, because all things of God are **received** by faith. Similarly all gifts of God are **enjoyed** by faith. In fact, without faith we cannot understand or enjoy the gifts of God. The Word of God comes to us so lovingly and freely.

In this book we are told in a sevenfold manner how to overcome. God uses many illustrations to help us. The phrase "he that overcometh" is repeated seven times in Rev. 2 and 3. These two chapters can again be subdivided into seven parts. Even though there are seven messages recorded, we can say there are altogether forty nine messages in the two chapters. First of all we find the whole church history summed up in the messages to the seven churches. It can be divided into seven periods. The **first** period is the apostolic period till about 95 A.D. The **second** period is the period of the martyrs, the suffering period, from 95 A.D. to 325 A.D. There were extreme sufferings and persecutions against the believers, and they were scattered or imprisoned and many were killed. They lost all they had, and that persecution went on for about 240 years. With the **third** period came the downfall of the church.

When Constantine became the Roman Emperor, many became Christians only because the emperor had become a Christian. The downfall during this period was because every kind of Babylonian practice was introduced in the church. This period lasted from 325 A.D. to the beginning of the 5th century. The **fourth** period, from the beginning of the 5th century over the next thousand years was called the Dark Age when every abominable practice was introduced by Christians in the Name of Christ. The **fifth** period was the period of the Reformation. After that came the **sixth** period, when the Gospel was taken to other countries. We are now going through the last or the **seventh** period. In Rev 2-3 the first message to the church at Ephesus speaks of the first period, and the last message to the church at Laodicea speaks of the last period.

There are seven titles given to the Lord Jesus Christ in those seven messages to the seven churches. The Lord says, "I am So and So" to each church, and by these seven titles which the Lord has given to Himself, His sevenfold greatness is revealed to us. How great He is and how wonderful, is made clear to us in His seven messages. Then there are seven charges the Lord makes against the churches. "I have somewhat against thee" He says to each church. The seven charges are recorded in His seven messages. There are also seven great weapons the Devil uses against God's people, and we are told of seven weapons given to us, by which we are to defeat the Devil. The Devil has got his weapons to discourage us and to take away our peace and to bring barrenness. But at the same time we are given weapons to defeat the devil. Similarly there are seven rewards for those who overcome, and there are seven great spiritual experiences which we will have to go through in order to overcome. Let us consider these seven experiences.

What are these seven spiritual experiences? We do not require the knowledge of Hebrew and Greek or any other thing to understand these secret yet simple things. God's Word is simple, it is compared to water in Eph. 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse (the church) with the washing of water by the word." The Bible is compared to water, not to tea or coffee that some like with more sugar, and some with no sugar, others like strong or weak, cold or hot. There are so many different tastes in tea or coffee, but it is not so with water. Everyone must have water. From our childhood to old age we must have water. Even dying persons long for water. When a man cannot take food, still he wants a glass of water. Whether people are civilised or uncivilised they require water. It has the same taste for all people. That is why the Word of God is compared to water, that all may be actually profited, benefited, refreshed, inspired, strengthened, and encouraged by reading it. We do not need to be highly educated to benefit by reading God's Word. By listening to it and obeying it we can be blessed.

We will now see one by one what these seven simple spiritual experiences are. It is hard to understand what a great inheritance is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ. Suppose you are the son of a very wealthy man, would you not expect to get your share of your father's property sometime, even though it may take some years? You can say, "My father owns so much land and so many buildings and I know one day, I will get my portion." You may have to wait for 75 years, but you can say truthfully, "I will get my portion because I know my father has left me an equal portion with my brothers." You must understand and believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Creator, Saviour, and Lord, and that you are "joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also

glorified together" (Rom 8:17). We are joint-heirs. What a mystery! What belongs to Him belongs to us. We can claim our share in that inheritance in heaven "to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:4, 5) and "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Col 1:12). We have an inheritance, a real inheritance that we will enjoy when we overcome. God gives us eternal life, which is free: "Whosoever believeth on me hath everlasting life." But the promised inheritance is enjoyed and received when we overcome. God permits in our lives sufferings, sorrows, and hardships of all kinds to teach us how to enjoy our inheritance and how to be worthy of this wonderful, glorious, spiritual, eternal and heavenly inheritance. On one hand He offers us what He has for us, and on the other He also shows how any one of us can enjoy it.

The **first** great spiritual experience is **love**. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4). In Ephesus people had all the qualifications which any believer could have. Verses 2 and 3 say, "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars. And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted." Nine qualifications are recorded here which the early believers outwardly professed—sound in Scriptural knowledge, very zealous, no toleration of any wrong doctrine yet longsuffering. But the Lord says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against

thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Most of us become hard-hearted believers. We are believers and no one can question our salvation, or doubt our experience of the new birth (thank God we are born again) and no one can question our doctrine, - we are so correct, exact, and proper - but love is not there.

In England everything is in order. The food is served on a nice bright dish and there are so many knives and forks. When in England, on the dining table I found on my right side at least five knives, and I was getting all mixed up! I didn't know which one to start with, even though I was told again and again to begin with number one, then number two, I was so nervous that I used the bread-knife for taking butter! Everything is in order and there is a nice table, set beautifully; but the food is tasteless, only boiled potatoes and boiled cabbage and boiled cauliflower. It looks nice, but has no taste.

Now a Christian may be very nice, very good, well dressed, and scholarly - but without love. The Lord says, "This is my charge against you." You may be God's servant, young or old, but be very careful; the devil can make you a hard-hearted believer. We become so unkind - we speak unkind, hurtful, painful words, and say things that hurt others to give ourselves pleasure. The Lord is also hurt and wounded by these things, and says "I have somewhat against thee."

The main object of the devil is to make our labours barren and unfruitful. People shake hands on Sunday morning when they are very nice and ask us, "How are you?" But on Monday they ask, "Who are you?" There is no love on Monday, or Tuesday. Only on Sunday they are very sweet and show "love and kindness."

I remember very clearly the first message that I gave in India in 1943. I was praying, "Lord give me Your love. I do not mind what words You give me, but let me feel love for those to whom I preach, even if they make fun of my broken words." In India if you go for the open air Gospel preaching sometimes people mock you, laugh at you and ridicule you. They will even go on laughing and joking while you are speaking. So I knew what I had to face in that first cottage meeting. But I went on praying, "Lord I don't mind what they say; You give me Your love, give Your love for them. Let me feel Your love, as You feel for them. They are in darkness, they do not know their way. They do not know that they are responsible for their behaviour."

Can you say truthfully that your love today for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible and God's people is more than in the earlier days of your salvation? It is not so. For example, some couples show more love in the first month of their marriage, they work together, sit together, but after three months they get tired of each other. The husband looks one way, and the wife looks another way. They spend the whole evening at home just sitting but not talking, yet before marriage they could not stop talking. Now after three months, they act as if they are dumb. Love has become less and less, and still less, and the result is an unhappy home. This is a very poor illustration but our love for the Lord Jesus Christ should not become weaker but stronger, richer and purer day by day.

If people hate us we can pray for them, if they curse us, we can bless them. If they do not want us we can ask the Lord to have mercy upon them. This is the experience of spiritual love, which is eternal and longsuffering, as we

are reminded in Col. 3:12-14 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye And above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness." This is spiritual love which God demands of us. There can be no excuse. If we want the heavenly inheritance, we have got to be loving, kind, tender, gentle, sympathetic all the time, and not occasionally. Paul defines love in 1 Cor. 13:7 and 8, "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity (love) never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16). This comes by experience. It will not come easily. We have to pray. When we find our hearts becoming hard, we must pray, "Lord make my heart soft." That is my daily prayer, "Lord keep my heart tender." We talk so much that we become very hard hearted. We say so many hurtful things, without any regard for the feelings of others. It is only by prayer that our hearts remain tender, loving and kind. This gift of God is possible, God's Word says so. The Lord Jesus Christ loved us so much that we must also love like Him. "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses" (Matt. 18:35). We have got to forgive. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until

seventy times seven" (Matt 18: 21, 22). Four hundred and ninety times ! We find it hard to forgive even twice. We say, "I forgive you, but I will not talk to you. Yes, I forgive you, but do not come to my home any more. Come, but go away afterwards." Oh to be kind, loving and gentle! Love knows how to forgive. If He forgave us, why should not we forgive each other? That is why **loving and forgiving others is the first and fundamental experience in becoming an overcomer**, for we cannot overcome merely by long prayers and fastings.

The Lord tells in Rev. 2:5: "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent". What a serious charge! "I will take away thy candlestick." That means He will not be able to use us any more. He will not take away our salvation; thank God we are forgiven, but we cannot be a candlestick. We cannot shine any more, and people will not see divine light through us any more. We will remain barren spiritually. Please take warning. This is a very solemn charge to all of us, and there is no exception. The enemy knows how to make us hard-hearted, finding it hard to forgive and forget. So we must make sure we have our first love for the Bible, for the Lord Jesus Christ, and for God's people.

The **second** experience is found in Rev. 2:9-10, "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer. behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried, and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." The Lord Jesus tells us not to

fear any of those things which we may have to suffer. He does not even say that He will lessen it, but He says "Fear not, I will reward you. I will give you eternal life. If you suffer joyfully." We find the same thing in 1 Peter 4:12-14. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye, for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you, on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified." It is a privilege to suffer. "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41). They were even thankful when they were being threatened; they suffered yet they were thankful to the Lord, "We thank Thee for the privilege given to us of suffering for Thy Name's sake."

It is an honour and privilege to suffer for His sake. And we cannot escape it. "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his Lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?" (Matt. 10:24, 25). What we suffer cannot be compared to the shame He has borne for us. Also, the more we suffer, the more joy we receive. "Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matt.

One day a man came to see me, a Mohammedan who was a graduate. He said, "I want to be a Christian." I asked him, "Who gave you the desire to become a Christian?" He said, "I was visiting a friend in the neighbourhood, and there was a poor Christian sweeping the room. A Hindu passed by and his garment happened to touch the dust. He got so angry with the Christian, that he began to beat him. So I said to the Christian 'That is not your fault. You are doing your duty, by sweeping the floor. The other man is at fault. He has to walk on the other side if he is so particular about his garment. Why did you allow him to beat you?'" He said, 'Sir, my Lord was spat upon, He was reviled and mocked at, and yet He never retaliated. I am a Christian. I cannot talk back; I've got to pray for him!'" That made the Mohammedan to come to me. I taught him, he became a Christian and I baptised him. Can we say truthfully that for His Name's sake we will suffer joyfully? We are going to be persecuted. The disciple is not above his master, but let us rejoice in our suffering. Let them hate us, despise us, and curse us. But let us bless them. It is by this attitude we become stronger spiritually and at the same time qualify for a share in the heavenly inheritance.

The third spiritual experience is found in Rev. 2:12-13 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." This experience speaks of the third period of Church history.

when emperor Constantine became a Christian. We are told that he was about to be defeated in a battle when he saw a very bright cross in the sky. He made a vow that if he won the battle he would become a Christian. He won the battle and became a professing Christian, but with no real experience of faith. Many more in his army followed him and they also became Christians. As a result they brought with them many heathen practices, and through these the downfall of Christianity. Most of these Babylonian heathen rituals, rites and practices came in during that period. Here we must learn how to be separated, how to keep ourselves undefiled from the world, from worldly practices, and all kinds of heathen ways. Many Christians these days imitate the world. They think they have a strong argument. "We can't be different!" they say. But we have to be different, if we want to have our heavenly inheritance, for we are God's people, a peculiar people. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9). We are a different people, and we cannot deny it. We live in this world, but we are not of this world. We are a peculiar people and must live a life of separation. We should not be defiled by worldly habits, customs, ways, manner, dress, haircut and what not. We are a peculiar people. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:15-17). It is because of all these lustful, evil and impure desires that people follow the worldly fashions. There is no need to fool ourselves saying, "It is fashion." It is not fashion, it is lust and only lust and impurity that is responsible for these worldly garments.

and expressions and ways. It is not fashion. Hearts have become impure and full of evil. The manufacturers who want to advertise their product make use of lustful pictures. We cannot escape seeing them. Modern music is lustful, pictures are lustful, modern books and magazines are lustful, habits are lustful, and modern half naked dresses are shamefully lustful. If we go after the world we cannot expect to qualify for God's Kingdom. We will be enticed by worldly people, but thank God for the grace He has given us to keep ourselves undefiled, and to keep our garments unspotted from the world.

If we go after the world we cannot preach freely, give our testimony boldly, nor concentrate on God's Word. That is what happened during the third period of Church history. They began to imitate worldly people and gradually they fell lower and lower and introduced many abominable practices. Mark 7:6-9 "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." We learn from tradition and ignore simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord gives us true beauty. We do not need soap, face powder, beauty cream and all the worldly products for our beauty. We do not need gold and silver for beauty. If we obey God we gain true beauty. The more we obey the more beauty we have. God gives us heavenly glory and heavenly

beauty "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God, for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isaiah 61:10) He is my beauty The Lord Jesus Christ, the living Person, becomes my bright shining light day by day

We as believers must live a life of separation We cannot imitate the world, we cannot be unequally yoked with unbelievers, 2 Cor. 6:14-17: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" for ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." We have to live a life of separation and remain undefiled by worldly friends, neighbours, relations and habits We are a peculiar people, heavenly people and not worldly people. When people visit our homes they must know that it is a house for the God, not a worldly house. They look around and get impression as to whether God lives there or not.

"Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds, trees whose fruit withereth, without

fruit twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference. And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 8, 12, 13, 20-23). This is **the third experience - living a life of complete separation**. In habits of dress, manner, custom and conversation we have to be governed by God's Word, because we are God's people. By our conversation, dress, taste, music or interest of any kind, His Name must be glorified.

One day a child came to me and asked for money. I said "Why do you want the money?" He said, "I want to go to cinema." "A right, you pray for the money?" I told him. When he began to pray, he said, "My tongue does not move." Then he said, "We can't pray for what we know is wrong." He was only a small child but he knew it was wrong. We can ask the Lord: "Lord is Thy Name being glorified by my dress, by my habits?" We have to live a life of separation, even though we are mocked, ridiculed and made fun of, because we are a peculiar people, a holy people and we should show forth God's glory through our lives.

Now the **fourth experience** "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things

against thee because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols" (Rev. 2:18-20). That is how Roman Catholicism began. They started to worship the cross, and gradually they brought many images into the church and began to worship them. **But all these heathen customs must be put away.** Many Christians, rather than obeying the Word of God, have brought all kinds of practices into the church. That is why there is so much barrenness among them. All these things take away the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. God is a Spirit and we have to worship Him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24 says: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Keep your worship simple, free from meaningless rituals, rites and practices. Often the holy communion becomes only a ritual. Many never go to a church service except on Easter Sundays. They put on a new suit and new shoes (but not a new heart), and take part in the holy communion. They are smokers, drunkards, and adulterers, and even the pastors who give the holy communion smoke. We must **worship God in spirit and in truth**, and only then are we qualified for our share in the heavenly inheritance. God is preparing for us. Pray in the Spirit, watch in the Spirit, worship in the Spirit.

The **fifth** experience we find in Rev. 3:1-2, "AND unto the angel of the church in Sardis write, These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God." **Be watchful.** That is our fifth spiritual experience. People who know us may think very highly of us, but is God

satisfied? He said, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain." "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:35-37). This is a parable about the Lord's Second Coming, as we see from verses 34-35. "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh." Let us watch for His coming.

The Lord says here three things: 1. He has given authority or power to His servants to be His witnesses and to do His will. Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has been given some job. While He is away, He has given every one of us some job to do and when He comes back we will have to give Him account of our time, money and energy. Then we will know whether our time was well spent or not. Are my time and money being spent in God's will? "Lord, You gave me ten talents, here are ten more talents; You gave me five talents, here are five more talents."

2. We are told to watch for Him. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb.9:28). Note, those who look for Him! See also 2 Timothy 4:7,8: "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Note again, those who

love His appearing. If I want my full share in the heavenly inheritance I must live for His appearing. If I want my inheritance I must **love** His appearing. **Look** for it and **wait** for it. He is coming for me. I must be found ready, for He may come at any time. Sometimes when we go to any house unexpectedly, we must first give a knock and ask, "Can I come in?" "Please wait," answers our friend, "let me comb my hair." So we wait, while our friend combs his hair and puts his coat on. But we should always be ready for the Lord's coming. "Lord, I am ready, You come even now. I'll be so happy to see You." I shall jump with joy when I meet Him and see Him. There will not be a question of even one minute, and we, who watch for His return, must be ready. That is why we ought to take part worthily in the Lord's Table and search our hearts saying, "Lord, search me. Have I grieved Thee by any word? Have I grieved Thee by my hands or feet? Have I done anything that is shameful or unworthy? Then please forgive me." But many believers have no guilty conscience. They have said hurtful things, told lies, misused the Lord's money and yet have taken part in the Lord's Table. But watch! Watch for His coming and get ready. By watchfulness we enjoy our share of the heavenly inheritance. This is our **fifth** experience.

For the **sixth** experience we see Rev. 3:8. "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an **open door**, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" (Rev. 3:8). "Behold, I have set before thee an **open door**" - a door that is opened by the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many hungry hearts and thirsty souls ready for the message. **We have to go out**. But not for wasting time and throwing the tracts here and there. We must pray, "Now Lord, will You please show me the street

and the locality where someone is ready today for the Gospel?" Seek His will and guidance in your service, and He will tell you. We have found by experience that as we pray together the Lord tells us where and when to go, and we have found souls ready for the Gospel. Early in the morning I used to take gospels, Bibles, books and tracts, and walk the whole day giving out tracts, and selling books, but without any result. So I prayed, "Lord why no result? I have worked so hard; I walk many miles every day and give out gospels and tracts and miss many meals; ye, I see no fruit. Why?" The Lord said, "I never told you to walk many miles. I never told you to miss any meal. You are doing it on your own and that is why you see no fruit." It was true. I repented, "Lord, please forgive me," I said, "Now I will go only at Thy bidding."

One day I was praying, "Lord tell me where to go." I and my friend went out for an open-air meeting and I said to my friend, "Let us stand here and preach." My friend said to me, "If we go a few yards further under the shady trees many people will come there." I said, "No, the Lord is telling us to stay here and preach," even though there was no one there. We stood together and sang a hymn and then I began to preach. After I had finished the message, a very short man came to me and said, "I was behind the wall listening to you. I am a Roman Catholic. God has sent you for my sake." Then he added, "There is a Hindu family next door to me and they are begging me to tell them the way of salvation, but I don't know how to. Will you please come?" We all went happily. The man, his wife and children, in tears, gathered around us, "We are so thankful that you have come to give us the Gospel" they said.

The Lord has set before us an open door in many

homes, but we should find this out by prayer. "Lord, shall I go north or south, east or west? Guide me where I should go, anoint me and give me Thy message." And He will give us souls. It is by entering those doors that we become qualified for the heavenly inheritance. The souls we win under God's guidance are for God and He knows them. I could tell you many stories how God led us and we went and it was such a blessing. We have found that through one person, many more have been saved.

Now the **last or seventh** experience we find in Rev. 3:18. "I counsel thee to **buy of me gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be rich, and **white raiment**, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with **eyesalve**, that thou mayest see." This is a threefold experience. The Lord says: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire." Why gold? Read 1 Peter 1:7. "That the **trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." It is a picture of **strong and living faith**. Gold has to be purified seven times. We cannot purify gold by soap and water. The goldsmith puts the gold in a vessel and melts it. When it is fully melted, he brings out blue flame with a blowpipe until every tiny bit of sand is burned away. The goldsmith will go on purifying it till he can see his own face clearly as if in a mirror. Because one tiny grain of sand can make the gold dull, he keeps on blowing the blue flame. In the same way, God says if we want such clear faith we have to go through many refining fires. In these last days, we require strong faith. There are many doubters these days who like to put doubts in our mind too. Some look for signs, some for dreams. A simple, strong and active faith comes by going

through the refining fires of suffering. When the Lord says, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold", it means that we should have His faith, and then these men will not succeed in putting doubts in our mind.

Please look up Rev. 19:8. "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." We become righteous with the Lord's righteousness, not by our own good works. First of all our sins are forgiven, for the Lord Jesus Christ is our atonement, but now we have to become more righteous by receiving more of His life. If we want to become more righteous we should not depend on our own efforts. Is my raiment white? Is my light bright? That will show me if I am righteous! His light will be shown to us more fully and more clearly as we become more righteous. And this is our true specification. As the life of the Lord Jesus Christ flows into us in full measure, He Himself, the living Person, is my righteousness. 1 Cor. 1:30 "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." So when the Lord Jesus Christ takes complete charge of all our purposes and plans, He becomes our wisdom. He becomes our **righteousness**. We leave it to Him to use us as He likes.

Then He says further to buy of Him eyesalve. "And anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Rev 3:18). People in eastern countries use some kind of ointment when their eyes begin to get somewhat dim. With the help of this ointment, they do not require glasses. I have seen many people in India without glasses, who can see more clearly by applying eyesalve. My mother, at the age of 89, could see clearly without glasses. She used to apply eyesalve. There are many

things in God's Word which we do not understand. So we go to Him and He gives us the spiritual eyesalve, and we begin to understand these things. As the Psalmist says: "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18). When the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord touches our eyes, we are able to see many mysteries in His word. "Wherefore also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." (Eph. 1:15-18). We require heavenly sight to see our heavenly inheritance and glory. Similarly we require heavenly vision to understand the great saving knowledge of Christ and His resurrection, so we need to pray every day, "Lord Jesus, wilt Thou kindly touch my eyes, that I may see hidden mysteries from Your Word?" This will not come by knowledge. Go upon your knees, do not be ashamed, do not seek to be in too much comfort, then pray: "Now Lord, this is Your Word. I am foolish, please touch my eyes now, I want to see Your hidden things;" and this is the Lord's promise, "blessed are your eyes, for they see and your ears, for they hear" (Matt. 13:16). The Lord must touch my eyes. Only by allowing such a touch can I see His heavenly mysteries. I have myself never read any book on Revelation, only the Book of Revelation itself. I have just knelt down with a few pages here and there, but I kept on praying again and again. "Lord, please show me things which I can never see in any book, or hear from any preacher, or learn by any professor. Lord teach me, teach me Yourself" and then I began to see. I saw so clearly

how God had hidden in His Word so many mysteries. You also must claim by faith for that revealing, and day by day you will see in different passages and different portions many hidden messages, many heavenly mysteries, to cheer you, to lead you and strengthen you along the way.

Now you have these seven simple experiences. The first is **love**; the second is **suffering joyfully** without murmuring; the third is **separation** from the world, the fourth is **freedom from man-made customs, traditions, rituals and ceremonies**. The fifth is **watching** to be ready for His coming, The sixth is **entering open doors** and learning how to win souls for Him by finding who are prepared by Him; and the seventh is **strong active faith**, a living faith and life, using spiritual eyes alone, so that we can understand His heavenly mysteries. By these simple things we are qualified for our share in the spiritual, heavenly, glorious inheritance in the Lord Jesus Christ.



8. EIGHT NEW THINGS

The closing chapters of the Book of Revelation describe the glory of the New Heaven and New Earth. Also they describe in detail the beauty of New Jerusalem. To prepare us for the coming New heavenly kingdom the Holy Spirit is operating in us and bringing forth new things.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). The first part of verse 18 is very important, "And all things are of God." It does not say; "If any man be a Christian," but, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature." Mark that verse. There are many professing Christians in the world but they are not all in Christ. For example, I can say my finger is a part of my body. Pull my finger, and you pull my body with it. But if I hold the Bible in my hand it is not a part of me. The verse says, "If any man be in Christ," that is, if any person is spiritually joined to Him he becomes a new creature. Old things are passed away. Indeed there are people who before becoming new persons had never heard the Gospel. They have been changed immediately and completely. I have seen this in other countries too. By God's grace and by the Word of God entering their lives, many are being transformed and becoming new persons. Their faces shine. One can see the light of God on their faces. They have new joy in their hearts and a new power in their lives. At the same time their whole outlook also is completely changed.

To understand the full meaning of these new things let us see what our condition is without the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we will know how we need to be totally transformed by accepting Him as our living and personal Saviour. Isaiah chapter 1 gives us a clear picture of our inward condition.

When a photographer shows you strong and fair in your photo you feel happy even though you are dark and skinny. God's Word is not like that. God's Word does not give a wrong picture. It gives a true picture of what we are. At the same time God also tells us what we shall be. What we are now as sinners and what we can become by coming to Him, and by becoming a part of Him. In Isaiah 1:6 is God's photo of man as a sinner: "From the sole of the foot even unto the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

This is God's picture of every man in every country, whether he is highly cultured, civilised or illiterate. Inwardly his condition is the same. Some years ago a friend gave me a nice big red apple. I took a knife and cut it open. It was rotten inside! I said, "My friend gave it to me with great love, why throw it away?" I kept on cutting it but could not find a single good piece. Outside it looked so nice and red. That is our condition. Outside we look so nice and sweet, so cultured and having good manners, but inside all is rotten. God's Word says so. We see clearly from the Scripture that God says that from the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness in us, but wounds and bruises and putrifying sores, which have not been closed, neither bound up, nor mollified with ointment. You may have seen lepers of this description whose whole body is full of sores from head to foot; the legs, the stomach, the back and even the faces and ears. The whole body is bandaged to keep the pus from coming out, as if God were saying, "Oh man, that is your true condition, but you don't know it." Read Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Now read again what God says about our heart, in Matt 15:19-20. These are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." That is our condition. Our sins begin as a thought. How many kinds of evil thoughts we all have. Thoughts of hatred come in a all of us, thoughts of enmity, jealousy, greed, deception. Lies and cruelty come in like a flood. They will not go away easily. We say, "I don't want them", but they are there, and unless we are changed and given a new heart these thoughts will not go away, try as we may. You may keep on saying, "I don't want them" but they will not leave you. They cling to you like your shadow.

In Ezekiel 16:3-5, God says about mankind, "And say, Thus saith the Lord God unto Jerusalem. Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan, thy father was an Amorite. And thy mother an Hittite. And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee, thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee: but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the sucking of thy person, in the day that thou wast born." This happens in any big city. When a child is born of sin the mother may go out at night and throw the child in the field somewhere. I have seen it happen, an unwanted child lying in the field because it was born of sin. God says, "O man, that is your condition. You are not wanted by anyone." Our thoughts are evil, and our mind is full of evil imaginations, which cannot be changed. Knowing all this, our Lord has invited us to come to Him. When God uncovers sin, it is to forgive us, not to shame us. When men uncover sin

they do so to shame us. When God uncovers our sin, it is not because He hates us, but because He wants to save us. For example, when you go to a doctor, he must first of all properly diagnose the disease. He may even spend a week using different tests to find out the nature of the disease. Only then can he be sure. Similarly, God's Word discovers clearly and plainly what our condition is as sinners, because He wants to forgive us, transform us and make of us new persons. It is better to confess our condition to God than to live in darkness, die in shame and suffer for all eternity. When God starts showing these things in you do not think that God is trying to judge you. He loves you. The Lord says in John 3:17, "For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." He is not trying to show you your condition, as He sees it, for condemnation but that you may be saved, forgiven, washed, cleansed and transformed and be given a new life that you may live forever. That is God's reason for loving man.

See yourself as you are first of all and do not live under false pretence. The devil does everything to deceive us. We may say, "I am not so bad. I am a sinner, but not too bad." Whether we commit one sin or a thousand the result is the same. You may take a drop of poison or even a tumblerful, you will die all the same. One touch of a dirty hand to a wound can bring death. I have met such cases in hospitals. Some nurse through negligence or by a dirty touch has brought death to a patient. In the same way, even a sinful thought is sufficient to bring defilement. You do not have to commit sin by deed to bring defilement and become a sinner. From God's Word we know that even a sinful thought or imagination can corrupt and defile the whole being and thus disqualify us from entering God's Kingdom. But thanks be

to God, there is a way for our sins to be forgiven and our lives to be fully transformed. "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature."

Nobody is qualified to enter God's Kingdom because he is a Christian by name. For example, many people keep a dog and they give that dog a very nice name. Some call their dogs Henry or Napoleon, but the name will not make him a Henry or a Napoleon. Others give their dog the same food as they themselves eat, but that will not make him a man. A dog is only a dog. Some ladies give their dog a bed like the one they sleep in, yet the dog remains a dog. A dog must become human if a man wants to make him his partner. Similarly, it is not a Christian name that qualifies us for God's Kingdom.

"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?" (Matt. 7:21-22) And note this carefully, the Lord Jesus answers, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (v. 23). What a sad condition! What a solemn warning! In that day there will be people who will say, "In Thy Name we gave wonderful sermons. In Thy Name we have given a lot of money and built many church buildings. Lord we gave money for India, China and Japan to build so many church buildings". But the Lord will say "I never knew you, **never knew you**, depart from Me ye that work iniquity". A solemn warning indeed! and they are not my words. Unless we are joined to Christ and become a part of Him, and unless His life begins to flow in us, we have no share, nor part in God's Kingdom.

That is why we must take heed. We must not be deceived. We can deceive our fellow men, but not God.

"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8,9). This is a simple and plain definition of a Christian as the Bible gives it. He is a Christian who is indwelt by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not indwelt for a few days or minutes or seconds, or even for a few hours or months, but forever. Whatever the Lord gives He gives for eternity, if He gives joy it is an everlasting joy; if He gives a Kingdom, it is an everlasting Kingdom, if He gives love, it is eternal love. Our inheritance is everlasting, and we must have everlasting life to live with Him forever.

Let us now see how we can be changed by Him. We have seen from God's Word that unless we are transformed we shall remain outside God's Kingdom. What kind of change takes place when we are in Christ? "If any man be in Christ old things are passed away, all things are become new".

What are these new things? "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God" (Ezek. 36:26,28).

That is the first thing that happens, "a new heart will I put within you". The heart is the seat of affection; and unless we have a new heart we cannot love God. We love the world, because our old heart loves worldly things, by receiving a new

heart we love heavenly things. 'Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth' (Col. 3:2). That is the first great change which takes place in a person who has received a new heart: he has a love for heavenly things. I know, for this has been my experience.

The Lord Jesus Christ became my Saviour in December, 1929. I remember clearly that before my conversion I was fond of worldly pleasures, clothes and fashion. Just to find one tie, I would search through all my things for the whole day like a woman. "This one is no good and that one is no good," I would say, searching like a fool through the whole almshouse for just one tie! I used to waste my time reading newspapers for two or three hours every morning, looking at silly pictures, novels, magazines and stories, thinking, planning how to earn and gather more money, my mind was on worldly things all the time. There were also other hidden pleasures of sin in my life, but the Lord Jesus Christ took away all these desires as soon as I came to Him. Nobody told me to give them up, not a single person, not even a preacher. The life of the Lord Jesus Christ coming into me gave me new desires. The Scripture says, 'I will give you a new heart.' This is quite true. He gave me a new heart, and I thank God for it, because He took away my filthy heart and gave me a pure heart: as the Scripture says in Matt. 5:8 'Blessed are the pure in heart' for they shall see God." Only God can give a pure heart.

Try as you may, your inward impurity will never go away of itself. You can say: 'I will never look at a woman, I will never see a man, I will never see this, or that;' but you will not succeed. Thoughts go on wandering all the time, but from the Scripture we know that we can be given a pure heart. Acts 13:9 says: 'And put no difference between us and them,

purifying their hearts by faith.' God gives a pure heart. As we confess our sins before Him, however shameful they may be, however black they may be, however terrible they may be, they are forgiven. At the same time, guilty stains are washed away because every sin we commit leaves a mark in the conscience. God has put this 'tape-recorder' in every person. Each thought, whether good or bad, is recorded on this tape. What I think is recorded in my conscience, what I speak and do is also recorded in my conscience. I may suppress it, but the time comes when we become troubled by a guilty conscience. I have seen many persons on their death bed troubled by a guilty conscience. They remembered what they had said, and done years before. Then they cried,

Do something, do something, please do something, either charity or fasting, or prayer,' but too late! None of these things could take away their guilty stains. They were still there. Hebrews 9,14 tells us "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." God gives us a new conscience, a good conscience which we can never have by our own efforts. Can you say truthfully that God has given you a new conscience or a good conscience?

The Lord Jesus Christ, by His precious blood, gives us a good conscience. The proof is our boldness in the presence of God. Suppose you have said something wrong against somebody. This is a common practice, for we keep on gossiping and talking. Now imagine that the person being discussed and slandered walks in as you are talking about him. You cannot look him in the face, you look this way and that because you are afraid. You have a guilty conscience. Can you then talk with God with a guilty conscience? Impossible. But when we have a good conscience we can talk with Him freely

We can go to Him any time, anywhere and talk to Him like a friend because He has made our conscience good. "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth us so now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God)" (1 Pet. 3:21)

So the **second** thing God gives us is a good conscience. All the guilty stains caused by sinful thoughts and deeds have been washed away by my Lord by His Blood. The proof is boldness and liberty in His presence. Hebrews 4:16 says "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." A pure heart and a good conscience will give us boldness and liberty to talk with God very freely at any time, anywhere, in any need and for any reason. Now to me God is more real than my hand can be. I can talk to Him any time of the day or night, ask Him all my questions, tell Him my problems, my needs, my difficulties, and I know He will answer me. Now suppose I have a guilty conscience; then I cannot pray. Sometimes I will say something in anger, and I am troubled so that I cannot talk to God. Then I go upon my knees, "Lord, forgive me, I am sorry I got angry. I said something wrong, please forgive me." When I am forgiven straightway I can talk to God very freely. A good conscience gives liberty and boldness to talk to God, and I can stay in God's presence for a long time.

Thirdly, we receive a new nature. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Pet. 1:4). As sinners we have a sinful, defiled, rotten nature, but now God gives us a divine, holy and pure nature, for our sinful nature can never be refined by human effort.

There was a professor in London who thought he could change a pig's nature. So he took a baby pig and kept it in a clean place with marble floor, and electric light, and fan, and he had a servant appointed to give the pig a bath every day. The pig was being given a hot water bath every day for ten years, and was powdered and combed also. Then the professor said, "Now my pig is reformed." So one day the pig and the professor went for a walk and the pig saw dirty water and began rolling in it, and the professor knew his years of labour had been in vain. You cannot change a pig's nature by soap and hot water and powder. Similarly, none can change a man's nature by education or culture or civilization. A man may be a B.D., Ph.D., or any other D., but that will not change his nature. A sinner will remain corrupt, as God's Word says: "The heart of man is deceitful, our nature is corrupt, the proof you can see around you, men and women walking about in a shameful way. Why? They have a corrupt, sinful and defiled nature. They are more happy in looking at filthy things than at heavenly things. What is in the heart comes out. In some places people who are half-naked are called uncivilized, while in the West those who are half naked are called civilized. What a mockery! What blindness! A corrupt, defiled, sinful nature will not be changed by education, reformation, science or knowledge, or by any other effort of man. But there is a remedy. We become partakers of the divine nature and are given the very nature of the Lord Jesus Christ."

When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we enter into a sevenfold partnership. What is this sevenfold partnership? Firstly, by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour we are made partakers of the Holy Spirit. "those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost"

Secondly, we are made partakers of God's holiness, not my holiness but His holiness. "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness" (Heb. 12:10). We become holy not by Bible knowledge, or by prayer, or by fasting but by the Lord Jesus Himself.

Thirdly, we have partnership in a heavenly calling. "holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling" (Heb.3:1). Upon the earth you earn your living by doing some job, as a doctor, or an engineer or a professor, or a clerk, or a labourer, or as a king. But spiritually we all have the same heavenly calling. What is that calling? To show forth God's glory and power to the heavenly authorities. There was once a wealthy man who built a big and grand house. The middle room had high ceiling which was beautifully decorated. It was a fine work of gold and silver and precious stones. Clever artists from many parts of Europe came to decorate that high ceiling. One day his friends came to see it, but they could not see it clearly because it was so high. They bent their necks, but still could not see it. So the wealthy man brought a large mirror, and placed it on a table. Then the whole beauty of the ceiling could be seen in that mirror. This is our heavenly calling, that the glory and beauty of God which cannot be revealed through mountains, birds, animals, trees, flowers and stars can be revealed through you and me. We can break stones to earn our living, or we can be a lecturer or a professor or a doctor, but spiritually our calling is to show the Lord's glory and beauty. There is a peculiar and heavenly beauty on the faces of those who are born again and that beauty does not come by earthly things. It is a heavenly beauty.

Fourthly, we are partakers of the heavenly inheritance. "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to

be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Col. 1:12). This takes away all love for passing things. Before you were born again you were fond of earning and saving money, and your whole time was spent upon that. But that is on y passing wealth. You cannot take it with you when you die. The story is told of King Alexander, a famous King of Greece. He came to India in 325 BC, and died young, before he was 30. Before he died his mother came to him and said, "My son, what is your last wish?" He said, "When I die will you kindly leave both my arms outside the coffin box?" Generally when we put the body in the box the whole body goes inside. But he said, "I want both my hands open kept outside the coffin, and when you order my funeral procession a man should go before shouting; "Here goes the great King Alexander! See his empty hands. He came into the world empty, and he is going away empty." He had much wealth but all was left behind. All these earthly things are left behind when a man dies. But we have a spiritual inheritance, we are "partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). This is my hope. One day, in heaven, I shall receive from my Lord an everlasting inheritance. But first of all I must have everlasting life.

Fifthly, we are made partakers of the heavenly glory. "THE elders which are among you I exhort, who are also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed" (1 Peter 5:1). What a privilege! When the Lord Jesus Christ comes we are going to be made partakers of the glory, provided we have been found faithful.

Sixthly, we are partakers of the Lord Himself. "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end" (Heb. 3:14). Partakers of

all that He has. Cor. 3:22-23 tells us this: "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's and Christ is God's."

And seventhly, as we have already seen we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4). This sevenfold spiritual partnership we enter into by accepting Christ. To sum up once again we are partakers of the Holy Spirit, of God's holiness, of the heavenly calling, of the heavenly inheritance, of the heavenly glory, of the Lord Himself, and of the divine nature.

Now once again we continue with the seven new things. We have already seen the first three, a new heart, a new conscience, and a new nature. **Fourthly**, we are given new wisdom. "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30). We are given heavenly wisdom to understand heavenly mysteries. Supposing you want to learn farming. Then you must become a farmer, and if you want to know how to heal the body you must become a doctor. Similarly, if you want to know something about God, you must receive divine wisdom. Heavenly things can only be known by heavenly wisdom. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14). By this means (wisdom) we can know what happens after we die. Do you know what will happen to you after death? We understand that the world will come to an end, but before this takes place the Lord will come and judge all nations. We also know that God will bring into existence a new creation. All these mysteries are revealed

by heavenly wisdom. We also find God's will by divine wisdom, and enjoy the Bible by the same means. In Mat. 11:25, we read "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

Fifthly, we are given a new song in our mouth. "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:2,3). A new song in our mouth - to praise and thank God. The same mouth was once full of cursing, hatred and evil things, but now is always thanking, praising, adoring, worshipping and honouring God - free from cursing, bitterness, hatred, enmity and jealousy. Has God given you a new song in your mouth which enables you to praise Him under all circumstances?

Some years ago I fell and sprained my ankle. It was painful, and I could not even stand. I had to stay in bed for 19 days. I thanked God for the sprain. I knew it was for a purpose, and I was not going to blame God for it. While I was in bed those 19 days, there came two men to see me, one young Mohammedan and one young Hindu, in need of salvation. I was able to talk to them for the whole day because I was staying in bed, and they both found salvation. After that, God said, "You walk." The purpose was finished. I was healed completely after 19 days in bed. Whatever God permits I know it is for a purpose. I can thank Him for trouble, I can thank Him for trials, I can thank Him for hardship. Through all these things I learn something new. I don't know of any occasion

in the past many years when I had to blame God for anything. Whatever may happen I say: "God, I thank Thee for everything," for I know that all things work together for my good. The Scripture says in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Many years ago in London, I was looking for a lodging place, and I saw an advertisement in a paper - "Room to let." I found the place and knocked at the door. A small girl opened the door. She told me to wait, and went inside to her mother. Her mother came half-way, and saw me standing in the doorway. "Shut the door," she said. She had seen my dark face. I felt hurt. But that was her loss, not mine. She had lost a good lodger, for I would have given her a good rent. I said, "I will find a better place." So I turned round and in the next street I found a better room in a better house with less rent. I thanked God for it. I know that whatever happens to me is for my good.

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isa : 61:10). Now this is the **sixth** new thing, a new beauty, a beauty that does not come by wearing worldly garments. Even if you spend a large amount of money in buying new clothes, that will not give you beauty. All garments get torn and spoiled in time. But the Scripture says, "He hath covered me, clothed and surrounded me with a garment of salvation" which becomes brighter and brighter. Try it and your face will be shining with God's glory. Everything will be new. "Behold,

I make all things new." He gives new wisdom, a new song, new glory, new beauty, a new calling, and a new vocation, all things new.

Seventhly, He gives us new relations. "But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matt. 12:48-50). He gives new brothers, new sisters, new friends. We give up old friends who continue to live in sin and do shameful things. But we are given new brothers and sisters who do God's will and whose love and affection is far more real than that of worldly friends. Worldly people love for a short time only, but this love is for eternity because we know we shall meet again.

Some years ago, when leaving Canada, many came to see me off, and as we shook hands they said, "Brother, we shall meet again. If not here, then up above." What a hope! I never even knew their names, but I know I will meet my Canadian friends in heaven. In 1946 my father passed away in India. At that time I was in Scotland, so my brother sent me a cable, "Father died." I sent back a cable to my brother, "I will see my father again." I knew he was born again and baptised before he passed away. If you want to meet your parents in heaven you must also repent of your sins and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, otherwise it is good-bye forever. Before my father passed away he called my sister and said to her, "My child, you will not see me after three days." She began to weep. "Now, my daughter, don't cry for me. I am ready. My time on the earth is finished. I am

going to a better place. Please don't cry for me." She went on weeping. As he said, exactly on the third day very peacefully he passed away. I have never felt all these years that he died. We shall meet. We know it is only a temporary separation, we shall meet again, never to part again, in glorified, immortal, heavenly bodies. My friends, my brothers, my sisters, we shall all live together for eternity! If we part now it is only a temporary separation.

If any man be in Christ he is a new person, a new creature; all things are new. He gives you a new hunger and a new thirst. "And Jesus said unto them,...he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). He daily gives you heavenly food, and you need not feed yourself on foul story-books, TV programmes, and other shameful things for your entertainment.

In many homes these days, young men and women and even their parents waste time looking at TV for hours together. To satisfy their hunger they want to see something but are never satisfied. They will sit a whole day, or whole night, but will never be satisfied. These things cannot satisfy. The Lord Jesus Christ says, "Come to Me, eat My bread, drink My water and you will be satisfied." "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness" (Psa. 107:9). Only the Lord Jesus can satisfy your hunger and thirst. Otherwise you will waste your time, money and energy doing shameful things and still never be satisfied. It is like pouring water upon sand. Has the Lord Jesus Christ satisfied you? If not, come to Him. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature.

Finally, we do not defeat the Devil by worldly weapons. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but

mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4, 5). God gives us new weapons. This is the eighth new thing. Now you can defeat the enemy. In Isa. 54:17, we read: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me". In Romans 12 we read of the weapons of our warfare. "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:20,21). The new weapons of our warfare are love, kindness, sympathy, prayer, tolerance and patience. By finding and doing God's will, and by honouring God's Word we defeat the enemy. Not by quarrelling or fighting, not by strife, or hatred, not by jealousy or other worldly weapons can we defeat the enemy. "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Have you really become a new person? Can you say joyfully and truthfully, yet with all humility, that on a certain day, in a certain place the Lord Jesus Christ met you and changed you and made you an entirely new person? Have your friends and habits and conduct and manners changed completely?

Read the Word of God, and call upon Him, if you want Him to forgive you and transform you and make you a new person.

